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Butrus-Ghali on 'Tougher Action' in Bosnia

AU2304124793 Paris AFP in English 1201 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Brussels, April 23 (AFP)—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali called here Friday [23 April] for greater international cooperation to step up intervention in the former Yugoslavia.

Speaking after a meeting with European Commission president Jacques Delors, he said the talks had dealt with the possibility of tougher action in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the perils faced by U.N. forces there.

"We think it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation between the various international organisations," he said.

But Butrus-Ghali would not elaborate on proposals to launch air raids against Serbian supply lines in Bosnia.

"That must be decided by the (U.N.) Security Council, which is responsible for any coercive action which could be undertaken in Bosnia or any of the ex-Yugoslav republics," he said.

U.N. sanctions to increase the isolation of Serbia and Montenegro by cutting air, water and land transport links and freezing Serbian assets abroad are due to come into effect on Monday.

"We discussed how E.C. cooperation with the United Nations could reinforce the mediating role of the U.N. in Cyprus, Bosnia and the new states born out of the former Yugoslavia," Butrus-Ghali said.

He thanked Delors for the "generous" aid financed by the E.C. in ex-Yugoslavia, Somalia and elsewhere.

Havel Notes Americans' Interest in Bosnia

LD2304182993 Prague CTK in English 1413 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 23 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel told a press conference here upon his return from the United States that he was surprised by the intensity with which Americans were interested in the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This testifies as to how Americans sense their responsibility for preserving fundamental democratic values in the world, the Czech president said. Havel, who said he was in favour of a more determined approach to resolving the Bosnia crisis, said everyone he had met on his trip shared his views. He added that this opinion was also favoured by the Czech Foreign Ministry.

Havel called Czech Sergeant-Major Igor Rigo, who was killed yesterday during a Croatian raid while serving in the UNPROFOR [UN Protectin Force] peace-keeping unit, a hero worthy of the good name of the Czech Republic. I have always thought and to this day think that evil must be confronted. If we do not confront evil, we allow it to spread and grow. And to confront evil sometimes means to risk one's life, Havel noted.

Albania's Meksi Speaks at UN Assembly

AU2004161993 Tirana ATA in English 0818 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 20 (ATA)—During 1992 and 1993 an intensive work has been made for the extension of the participation of Albania in international forums. After a many-year passivity and self-isolation, in bilateral aspect Albania was introduced through completely new concepts in the foreign policy, aiming to play an active role in the UN, its specialized organizations and other international organizations. The synthesis of the program of the government and new priorities in the Albanian foreign policy were presented in the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, through the speech of the Premier Meksi in the general debate. For the first time, the Albanian missions in the UN in New York and Geneva participated in the regional group of Eastern Europe. During last September, Albania was in the lead of this group.

The signing of the agreement with the Centre of the UN Human Rights in Geneva, the opening of the UNICEF representative office in Tirana, two meetings of the G-24 under the auspices of UNDP [United Nations Development Program], adherence to the Convention and the Protocol on the Refugees, etc., are some of the main activities realised during this period in bilateral relations.

Of great interest are for Albania the participation in the meeting of the UN commission and subcommission of the human rights, in the annual session of INATOM [expansion unknown], cooperation with FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], adherence to the convention of the international commission of oceanography, and other activities.

Prime Minister Meksi Returns From U.S. Visit

LD2504171893 Tirana ATA in English 1036 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 25 (ATA)—Premier Aleksander Meksi ended his visit to the USA and on April 24 returned to Tirana. In a brief interview upon his arrival at Rinas airport, Mr. Meksi stated among other things:

The highest authorities of the USA were always present in the numerous ceremonies held in Washington. Alongside all the heads of states and premiers present, we had the occasion to meet the U.S. President Clinton both during the inauguration ceremony of Holocaust Museum and in a regular formal meeting. During the talk we tackled all the problems concerning Albania, such as the problem of U.S. support for the economic reform, the U.S. support in the international institutions and problems of our region and the danger of war and ethnic cleansing. We aired our already known views that Albania will allow no ethnic cleansing in Kosova. We also demanded that the USA, alongside all the other states, within international structures, resort to force to [word indistinct] the massacre taking place in Bosnia and [word indistinct] spill-over to the south.

We also met the U.S. vice-president, the secretary of state, senior officials of the State Department and the Albanian community. I believe we clearly expressed ourselves to present the policy of the Albanian state and ensure the necessary support.

Berisha Meets With Council of Europe Official

AU2404160393 Tirana ATA in English 0835 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 24 (ATA)—The President of the Republic Mr. Sali Berisha met with Mr. Bukikio, secretary of the commission "Democracy Through the Law" of the Council of Europe. Mr. President thanked Mr. Bukikio for the great aid that the commission "Democracy Through the Law" and the Council of Europe are granting to Albania in this period of transition in order to carry out the legislative reform, to prepare the basic codes of the coming constitution. The president asked Mr. Bukikio that the assistance for Albania should continue in the future in other fields such as that of reformation in the Ministry of Justice and the juridical faculties in Tirana and Shkoder, specializations of Albanian jurists and students of jurisprudence, etc.

Mr. Bukikio said that the commission "Democracy Through the Law" and the Council of Europe are ready and predisposed to help Albania in the above fields in the future, too.

On the same day, Mr. Arbnori met with the group led by Mr. Bukikio, secretary of the European commission "Democracy Through the Law" and chief of the juridical department of the Council of Europe. After making a presentation of the projects of cooperation in the juridical field with Albania, Mr. Bukikio said that special efforts should be made to help this state. This because Albania has a special position as a country that has suffered more by the dictatorship and where anticommunist forces have had the greatest triumph, making the majority in the parliament.

Mr. Arbnori thanked for the concrete aid the Council of Europe is granting to Albania in the juridical field, preparation of the laws of the draft of the constitution, training for the staff that prepares the laws, development of a juridical culture and mentality, etc. He presented the need of training for the jurists, the young ones in particular.

Assembly Adopts Treaties With Bulgaria, Turkey

AU2304152293 Tirana ATA in English 1022 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 23 (ATA)—At the beginning of today's sitting the People's Assembly examined two treaties of friendship and cooperation, between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Bulgaria and between the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey. These treaties cover almost all fields of bilateral cooperation and will serve the strengthening of relations and cooperation with these states. The People's Assembly ratified the two treaties.

In continuation the People's Assembly examined the draft-law on the competence to define wages. According to this draft-law, the defining of wages will no more be controlled by the Ministry of Finances and Economy but by the ministries, municipalities, and communes which have control over the enterprises. The draft-law was approved.

The People's Assembly will continue proceedings on Monday afternoon [26 April].

Arbnori Receives Kosovo Christian Democratic Leaders

AU2404171793 Tirana ATA in English 1031 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 24 (ATA)—The chairman of the Presidency of the People's Assembly Mr. Pjeter Arbnori met with the chairman of the Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo, Lazer Krasniqi, and other leaders of this party. In the talks, Mr. Arbnori said that "we have never separated the question of Kosovo and the Albanians in their territories in former Yugoslavia from the all Albanian question. The fact that only now the world is really aware of our situation and that for the first time the Albanian question is treated in the negotiations of the international diplomacy and politics fills us with hope and strength in our fight to defend and win our legitimate rights according to all international acts. The more the Serbian chauvinists are heading towards the blind allay of adventures and crimes, he continued, the sooner their end will come." Speaking of the Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo, Mr. Arbnori said that

members of this party, even its leaders, are believers of different religions. This testifies to the spirit of understanding, the tolerance, and the democratic spirit of the Albanians.

Mr. Lazer Krasniqi thanked for the support from the mother state to the question of the Albanians in former Yugoslavia. He pointed out that each time they come to Albania, they see the changes taking place there as a result of democracy.

The delegation of the Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo also met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania Mr. Alfred Serreqi. On this occasion, they exchanged opinions respectively on the actual situation in Albania and Kosovo, especially on the efforts of the Albanian political and state subjects for the solution of the question of Kosovo and the Albanian question in the Balkans. They insisted in the coordination of all Albanian diplomatic activities in the context of European and international institutions, so that the Albanian question be solved correctly and definitely.

Pope John Paul II Addresses Shkoder Mass

AU2504140893 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Shkoder, Albania, April 25 (AFP)—Pope John Paul II, making his first visit to formerly hardline communist Albania, on Sunday [25 April] hailed the recognition of the church which he said had previously been "condemned to death" by law under communist rule.

Addressing the congregation at Shkoder cathedral during mass, after crowds of Albanians lined streets and climbed trees to greet him, the pope also offered to cooperate with Albania's other religious communities dominated by Moslems in order to help reconstruct the impoverished country.

The pope had arrived to kiss the ground in the Albanian capital Tirana earlier in the day where he was welcomed by President Sali Berisha, the country's first non-communist leader, and Orthodox Christian and Moslem religious leaders.

Mother Teresa, herself of Albanian stock, was also at the airport where children dressed in traditional costumes sang Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy." The Roman Catholic nun heads the worldwide Missionaries of Charity.

Stressing his theme of inter-faith cooperation, the pope said: "As once before, when Catholics, Orthodox and Moslems demonstrated a fruitful cooperation, mutual dialogue and mutual solidarity must be deepened for the present and the future."

Shkoder, a town of some 50,000 located some 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of Tirana, is the cradle of Catholicism in Albania.

Up to 70 percent of the population of 3.2 million is of Moslem tradition, 20 percent Orthodox and the remaining 10 percent Roman Catholic.

The pope issued a greeting to Archbishop Anastasios, the Albanian Catholic primate, and to orthodox worshipers.

He also had "cordial thoughts" for Mufti Sabri Koci and the Moslem community, recalling a meeting in the Italian town of Assisi during which they had prayed together "for peace in Europe."

As the pope headed by road from Tirana to Shkoder, onlookers thronged village streets to watch him go by.

When he entered the town, he stopped to bless a choir of 200 children carrying lilies, and the Vatican and Albanian flags.

The joyful crowds applauded from the roofs of houses and the streets as he approached the cathedral, from where he was to address the people later from a balcony.

He was notably to seek holy intercession for ethnic Albanians living in former Yugoslavia, notably in the Serb-annexed province of Kosovo.

The pope consecrated two bishops and two archbishops, formally restoring the Catholic hierarchy in Albania after 50 years of repression by the hardline authorities.

Saint Nicholas cathedral here had been a sports hall under communism, and the Vatican put up the 500,000 dollars to restore the building under a two-year programme.

Some 130 priests, monks and nuns were executed or died in prisons or labour camps before the communist regime's overthrow in 1990.

"What happened in Albania is something which has never been seen in history," he told the Shkoder Catholics.

"Albania was swallowed by an abyss which it managed to climb out of, miraculously without a bloodbath."

"Your experience is one of death and resurrection which belongs to the entire Church and the whole world."

After his Shkoder visit, the pope was to return to the capital for talks with Berisha and would later address the Albanian people from Skanderberg Square in the city centre before returning to the Vatican.

Zhelev Denies Call for Air Strike

AU2404135393 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 24 Apr 82

["Excerpt" of statement by President Zhelyu Zhelev in Sofia on 24 April—recorded]

[Text] This morning President of the Republic Zhelyu Zhelev returned from his four-day unofficial visit to the United States. At Sofia Airport he made a brief statement to representatives of the press. Here is part of the statement that our correspondent Khristo Khristov recorded:

[Begin Zhelev recording] I have decided to state once again the main points of our Balkan policy to avoid the misunderstandings that are clearly arising. It must be said that our Balkan policy remains constant and unchanging. For the benefit of those who prefer sensations to the truth, I will take the risk of becoming boring and will nonetheless repeat the basic points of this policy.

First, Bulgaria will not take advantage of the difficulties affecting the disintegrating Yugoslavia. This was stated a year and a half ago, and we have kept our word; in no way have we attempted to make use of the difficulties affecting the former Yugoslavia.

The second point in our policy is that Bulgaria will recognize the right to self-determination of all the peoples on the territory of the former Yugoslavia to the extent of them forming autonomous, independent states. We fulfilled this promise on 15 January 1992 when we simultaneously recognized four former Yugoslav republics, on the basis of the criteria of the Badinter arbitration commission.

We have explained our policy everywhere, and it has been accepted with understanding and respect by the European and world institutions. I also explained the significance of our stance in Washington during my meetings at the U.S. Congress, the U.S. State Department, and the White House. There, too, it was received with understanding and support.

I cannot understand the tendency of television and certain newspapers which, in seeking sensations, are so eager to believe the so-called reports—in quotation marks—issued by TANJUG instead of our official reports on the working breakfast at the Carnegie Foundation. In the speech that I made there, I did not recommend air strikes against Serbia, as I have read in reports in the press, but expressed my fears that the situation is moving toward a military solution, because peaceful means are increasingly becoming exhausted and our last hope for the Vance-Owen plan is failing, while the view is increasingly gaining ground among politicians and military men that in the event of military intervention, it will be made by using air power. I heard such views from UN representatives in the State Department, and have also repeatedly heard them from visiting NATO representatives whom I have met. Similar talks are taking place in the EC, and accordingly it is imposing itself as the predominant view. Substantial differences exist between a proposal and fear expressed in the context of a scientific-theoretical or political-theoretical discussion of the kind that took place in the Carnegie Foundation. [end recording]

Defense Minister Comments on Vienna Agreement

AU2304210193 Sofia BTA in English 2022 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—The Vienna visit marked the completion of part of my strategy as minister of defense, Valentin Aleksandrov told journalists this evening on returning from the Austrian capital. A system of military frame agreements with Bulgaria's neighbours and the Danubian states has been created which guarantees to a great extent this country's security, Defense Minister Aleksandrov stressed. The Vienna agreement is similar to those Bulgaria has concluded with Russia, Turkey, Greece and Hungary. It makes provisions for the exchange of information, the training of officers and assistance in the implementation of the Bulgarian military reform because Austria has better experience in the transition from a division to a brigade structure, Minister Aleksandrov said.

Zhelev Begins Official Talks in Kuwait

AU2604100493 Sofia BTA in English 2026 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait City, April 25 (BTA)—Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev arrived here today on a two-day official visit. At Kuwait Airport he was welcomed by the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and by other officials. The two heads of state conferred briefly at the government hall of the airport. This is Dr. Zhelev's first visit to Kuwait.

Tonight the Amir of Kuwait gave an official dinner in honour of President Zhelev. Before the dinner the Bulgarian head of state had talks with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jabir al-Sabah.

At his talks today the Bulgarian president focused on three basic points—at least partial compensation of the losses suffered by Bulgaria as a result of its joining the sanctions against Iraq through oil deliveries or through investmen' in the Bulgarian economy, the updating and adding to the contracts and agreements between the two countries and Kuwaiti assistance for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Saudi Arabia.

The Bulgarian president is accompanied by Agriculture Minister Georgi Tanev, Minister of Territorial Development and Construction Khristo Totev and Deputy Foreign Minister Dimitur Ikonomov as well as by a group of Bulgarian businessmen.

Tanev Describes State of Farming as 'Disastrous'

AU2304183893 Sofia BTA in English 1539 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—Answering a question from Mr. Velko Vulkanov M.P. of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) in parliament today, Agriculture Minister Georgi Tanev declined to name the culprits for the damages inflicted on Bulgarian agriculture under the government of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) (November 1991 - October 1992), but said that the list of culprits should start back with the members of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Socialist Party in the last 45 years and should end with the members of the SDS Coordinating Councils at all levels.

Mr. Tanev cited National Statistical Institute figures on livestock numbers in Bulgaria. By December 1, 1992 there were 974,000 cattle (including 490,000 cows), 22,000 buffaloes, 2.6 million pigs, 4,815,000 sheep, and 19 million poultry. Compared with 1991, cattle were 337,000 fewer, cows 86,000 fewer, buffaloes 3,000 fewer, pigs 462,000 fewer, sheep 1.89 million fewer, and poultry 1,830,000 down. It is impossible to find out, however, what proportion of those animals were needlessly destroyed, Mr. Tanev said.

The irrigation systems, built on money of the dissolved cooperative farms, are largely unusable because of the high water prices and unsettled accounts with the Khidromeliorativni Sistemi State Company. Some of these systems well be underutilized.

There are cases of destruction of stables and plunder of building materials and they will be referred to the judicial authorities, the agriculture minister emphasized.

Judicial proceedings may also be initiated to identify the culprits for the condition of agriculture which Mr. Tanev described as "disastrous." The Agriculture Ministry has handed the available documents to the Prosecutor General's Office, but the office believes it is still insufficient, the minister said. This is not the first time that the minister of agriculture has called on Prosecutor General Ivan Tatarchev to track down the culprits for the decimation of livestock, due to which animal husbandry is in a disastrous condition. Mr. Tanev recently reported that Bulgaria will receive large cattle from Switzerland in an effort to overcome the stock breeding crisis. The rehabilitation of animal husbandry will take at least eight to ten years, Mr. Tanev believes.

Karabashev Receives Moroccan Delegation

AU2304185993 Sofia BTA in English 1612 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 23 (BTA)—Mr. Valentin Karabashev, deputy prime minister and minister of trade, today received a Moroccan delegation led by Mr. Ahmed al-Ouardi [name as received], head of the Bilateral Economic Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The delegation arrived to make expert-level arrangements for a session of the Bilateral Commission for Trade and Economic Cooperation, which will be probably held in September. During the session, Bulgaria and Morocco are expected to sign agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on reciprocal investment protection and promotion, the government press office said.

The Moroccan delegation brought 15 projects for economic cooperation with specific Bulgarian companies. The Bulgarians are welcome partners in construction and mining, the guests emphasized and expressed the hope that their contacts with Bulgargeomin and Tekhnoeksportstroy will keep developing.

Mr. Karabashev said that the Bulgarian Government is aware of the need to encourage bilateral intecompany contacts and that this opens immense opportunities for the restoration and expansion of Bulgaria's traditionally fine contacts with Morocco. Last year's turnover of 5.5 million U.S. dollars falls far short of the two countries' capabilities. The deputy prime minister emphasized that he hoped the September session of the bilateral commission would outline the framework of new cooperation.

Khimiport's debt of over 5 million dollars for 1990-1991 to the Royal Phosphate Company was also raised during the meeting. Negotiations are under way with Polikhim of Devnya on the joint production of fertilizers which will repay this debt. Phosphate will be imported from Morocco, and Bulgaria will contribute its production capacities.

Yugoslav Ministry Protests Havel Offer

LD2304175393 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry has delivered a verbal protest to the Czech representation in Belgrade against the statements of President Vaclav Havel who expressed support for military intervention in Bosnia and offered the services of the Czech Army. The Ministry pointed to the fact that the offer was made at a time when an intensive search for a just and peaceful solution to the conflict is being actively sought.

At the same time Belgrade stressed that Vaclav Havel is one of the last people they would expect to favor bombing and military intervention in the interest of saving human lives.

Also reacting to the statements of the Czech president during his visit to Washington was Serbian writer Momcilo Selic who referred to them as heinous, the more so that they were delivered by a Czech who should remember well what the Serbs did for his country in 1938.

Havel Meets With Clinton in Washington

AU2204133093 Prague CTK in English 0728 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Washington April 21 (CTK correspondent)—The situation in Bosnia, in Russia, bilateral relations and security issues in Central Europe were the topics of a one-hour meeting between Czech President Vaclav Havel and U.S. President Bill Clinton in the White House on Tuesday.

Havel backs a more radical solution to the crisis in Bosnia, but is opposed to lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. He stressed that the Czech Republic could not have a decisive influence on the solution to the Bosnia problem.

It would not be correct to give instructions to others. We can just say that if the international community adopts more radical moves than before, the Czech Republic is ready to support them and to take part in them within its possibilities, Havel told journalists after the meeting.

Havel also voiced disappointment over the fact that the U.S.A. put the former Czechoslovakia on the list of 44 countries who had created trade barriers against the U.S.A. in 1992. In comparison with other states, the Czech Republic has the most liberal approach to the trade with the U.S.A., which is evidenced by a 215 percent increase in U.S. exports to the Czech Republic in 1992. We were sorry for this and I told this to President Clinton, Havel said.

The Czech Republic's long-term objective is to join the NATO alliance with which it shares the same values, Havel told Clinton.

Clinton called the talks with Havel excellent and very positive, White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers told CTK.

One of the major objectives of Havel's visit was to present the Czech Republic and its policy to the U.S. President, Czech Presidential Spokesman Ladislav Spacek said.

Klaus Says 'Most' Property Agreements Ready

AU2304133693 Prague CTK in English 2153 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 21 (CTK)—Most of the ten remaining agreements on the division of the former Czechoslovakia's property are ready to be signed, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus told journalists today after his meeting with Slovakia's ambassador to the Czech Republic Ivan Mjartan.

The work of putting the finishing touches to the remaining property division agreements has advanced and is being continued, Klaus said. I believe that nothing is blocking the property commissions from meeting again next week, he added.

An agreement on the settlement of Slovakia's debt to the Czech National Bank after the division of the former Czechoslovak State Bank's assets and liabilities will not be taken out of the settlement, Klaus said.

He said that it is out of the question for the Czech Republic to sign further property agreements and ignore this one.

Klaus said that Slovak Finance Minister Julius Toth's current stay in the United States makes the convening of the property commissions' meeting slightly complicated as well as the fact that both countries' finance ministers are set to attend the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and development (EBRD) in London early next week.

The Czech Premier said he had conveyed to the Slovak Ambassador his request that Toth return from London on Tuesday, April 27, along with his Czech counterpart.

Klaus said that in any case property commissions' negotiations will last throughout this month. He added that only after the talks are completed will he be ready to meet with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar.

I am not willing to meet him if representatives of this or that ministry will sit beside us and say that they did not receive this or that basic document and consequently this or that agreement is not ready, Klaus said.

He said that all the reasons which last month led the Czech Government to suspend issuing shares of Czech enterprises to Slovak share-holders who acquired them during the first wave of coupon privatization last year

remain. Klaus said that the Czech Government suspended the issuing of shares in an effort to prompt Slovakia to take a more flexible approach on solving property disputes.

Klaus and Mjartan said that talks on the division of former federal property are going on and the super-zero variant which would mean their immediate stop is only the last eventuality which could come into consideration if the talks fail and produce no result.

The super-zero variant is not on the agenda of the day and there is thus no point in discussing the details of this method, Klaus said. He added that the Czech Republic is continuing in normal negotiations with Slovakia in the way they had been prepared and originally begun. We hope that the talks will be ended with individual concrete agreements on concrete issues, Klaus stressed.

Mjartan said that both governments will seek methods to settle property division. He dismissed the zero variant mentioned earlier by the Slovak side under which Czech Republic's claims in Slovakia would have to be compensated by the price of former Czechoslovak state flag or federal know-how taken over by the Czech Republic.

Agriculture Minister Calls For Property Settlement

AU2304144893 Prague CTK in English 1606 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 21 (CTK)—The future prosperity of Czech agriculture depends upon the settlement of property questions, Czech minister of agriculture Josef Lux said today in response to criticism by the parliament of a report on the state of the national economy.

Deputies criticized the fact that the report, which was given Tuesday by Economics Minister Karel Dyba, did not state how the government intended to resolve the catastrophic situation in agricultural production. This situation, the deputies said, was brought on by the insubstantial increase in the prices of agricultural products in comparison with significant increases in prices of consumer goods, by insufficient customs protection and by the monopoly of the processing industry, as well as by the fact that privatization of agriculture has come to a virtual halt. The deputies called for the government to submit a new agricultural program to lead Czech agriculture out of the crisis.

Lux, speaking before parliament at today's session, said that he considers the settlement of property questions through restitution, privatization and transformation to be an important motivating factor. He added that the extent of restitution in agriculture is enormous. Given the fact that 405,000 requests representing 245,000 restitution cases have been submitted, and 56,000 have been decided, then this is without a doubt an enormous amount of work, he said. The primary hindrance to the transformation of agricultural cooperatives, he said, is often members of those parties which criticize this transformation and the speed with which it is being done.

Currently 10 per cent of those working the over four million hectares of farmland in the Czech Republic are private farmers, Lux noted, adding that agricultural cooperatives still prevail. This year state-run farms, which cover more than one million hectares, will be privatized, and the ratio will doubtless change in favor of family farms and private farming, he said.

Market protection in the Czech Republic is comparable with that in neighboring countries, Lux said. We are prepared to gradually lower the level of protection of our market, but we can do this only if European Community (EC) and global trends to change agricultural policy are fully realized, he noted.

Our agricultural policy is not a policy directed toward the liquidation of agriculture, but toward making structural changes, and softening the impact on private and cooperative farmers, he concluded.

Documents in Prague Moved to Bratislava

AU2204123893 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 21 Apr 92 p 2

["red"-signed report: "A Database—Moving from Prague Castle to Bratislava Castle"]

[Text] Prague/Bratislava—According to information provided to CESKY DENIK, an important member of the Civic Movement, former Minister Jaroslav Sabata, used his access to information in the database of the Office of the President to tranferr part of it from Prague to Bratislava. Slovak President Michal Kovac has become the new owner of it. Sabata was his adviser when Kovac was the chairman of the Federal Assembly. This is what a CESKY DENIK reporter was told by a well-informed source close to the Czech Interior Ministry. Our source also said that most of these documents apply to people on the Czech political scene. This information was also confirmed by our Bratislava source. According to this source, the documents are the subject of great interest to Meciar.

Meciar Interviewed on Current Economic Issues

AU2304093193 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 21 Apr p 7

[First installment of interview with Vladimir Meciar, Prime Minister and Movement for a Democratic Slovakia Chairman, by Julius Gembicky and Ivan Horsky, in Bratislava; date not given: "Being Prime Minister Is a Hardship"]

[Text] [NARODNA OBRODA] What realistic and, above all, specific ways out of the present complicated situation do you see for the immediate future? Not even the government's policy statement provides a quite explicit answer, and it is not known whether the updated policy statement [to be presented to the Slovak parliament] will provide one. Yet everyone wants to hear solutions from you to precisely these problems.

[Meciar] I do not know whether my reply will satisfy you because some factors are coming into being in this transformation process that bring about a change in citizens' conduct, thinking, and motivation. Citizens are expected to master tasks that are qualitatively new with a mode of thinking that they assimilated in a different period. And they are not expected to master them in the long term, but tomorrow. Because even yesterday was too late. Someone who used to execute orders is all of a sudden supposed to become an active entrepreneur, a man who will act in his own name and who will provide for himself, his family, and also for the state. A citizen who was used to going to work and being employed is suddenly required to bear the consequences of his steps. Someone who used to be told that his party was wise and would solve everything for him is suddenly expected to become a citizen and participate in shaping the state. We can roughly say that, as a target, we would be glad to build a type of society analogous to that in Germany or Japan. But even the Germans and the Japanese underwent a painful development before they became what they are today.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Unfortunately, there exists no well-tried recipe for the conundrum of the social "reincarnation" of socialism, not even in the advanced democracies. The situation requires original solutions, to which, as is becoming apparent, not even the most illustrious political scientists and economists of the most advanced countries know the exact answers.

[Meciar] Practically all of us are learning as we go along. This is particularly true of people working in the social sciences, with the exception of the few people who have returned from exile. Readiness for the new conditions does not exist even in theory. We cooperate with theoretical establishments and are getting plenty of material from them, but how much of this can be applied in practice? They, too, are undergoing a process of retraining, all of which causes tension and confusion among citizens.

[NARODNA OBRODA] What ways out of the bottom of the society-wide malaise and what vision of development for the immediate future do you, as the prime minister, and your movement offer to the citizens of Slovakia?

[Meciar] Whereas in the past we passively looked on as a market environment was taking shape around us abroad, today we are able to take an active part in shaping this environment. We are still not being received well, a tendency lingers on in some circles to view us as some backward tribe. But we are already able to actively step into this market environment and give it a different shape. This very fact is positive and provides a certain way out. The second asset is the professional and educational structure of the citizens of Slovakia. Its standard is very high and internationally acknowledged. We ourselves are not yet quite able to assess its level and quality, to assess what we are and what we have. We do not have the slightest reason to suffer from complexes. The third advantage that we have, which may also be a way out, rests in our geographic location. We will always be a connecting link in the center of Europe, across which oil, gas, and electricity will flow. This establishes certain prerequisites for our future steps. Furthermore, the condition of factories in Slovakia is mostly good, as far as the buildings themselves are concerned. What they lack is technological standards and the modification of some steps in the economic reform.

In spite of this, we must not be rash in our thinking and activities. We have had jurisdiction over the management of the economy for only three months. In such a short period of time it is impossible to change the direction of a train that is moving at such speed, all the less so as the entire old legislation is still in force. There are perhaps two methods for the transition from socialism to a social market economy that are generally accepted. The first is the so-called shock therapy, which brings inflation to a halt but which, by applying a restrictive monetary policy, also brings to a halt the growth of the economy as a whole. Therein lies its disadvantage. On the other hand, it produces healthy money. The second method is the so-called gradualist theory, which places emphasis on the sequence of steps and on balance between the social and production spheres, even at the price of a certain regulated inflation as a result of its application. But the final aim of this method is the same, to restore growth. The difference between this government and its predecessor regarding the perception of economic reform lies precisely in the transition from restrictions and the shock therapy toward this gradualism, which means gradual development and harmonization of steps. The different choice of method does not mean, however, that we question the aims of the reform.

[NARODNA OBRODA] What solutions do you offer to prevent the economic decline from deepening and to head off economic collapse?

[Meciar] We must address the roots of the problems. We cannot go for outward effect. Each building starts with foundations. If the foundations are not good, the walls start cracking and everything becomes more expensive. In the currency sphere, for example, having established our own currency we now aim at its stabilization. Anomalies in the circulation of money occurred in March. Monetary flows have become detached from the flow of goods. Goods are circulating but money is not. This is very negatively reflected in the operation of the state. We do not yet know the reasons for this, only the manifestation. A considerable part of Slovak enterprises have stopped surrendering to the state their mandatory levies. We do not know where and why they keep the money. If this continues for three months, we will not have money to pay the police or health care workers. Hence, we have to resort to coercive methods. This will seem undemocratic to many and some people will be screaming. But it is in the name of democracy that we must do this, if we are to avoid the disintegration of state and society.

Another reason for the considerable strain is that the departments are adapting not only to the [existence of an independent] state but also to a new economic quality. Whatever is bad must go. The tension that can be noticed among physicians and in education must go through purification. What still causes confusion in our society is inertia, coupled with lack of ideas about the future and different views on the paths we ought to pursue. At first glance this creates the impression of chaos. But the movement itself, the laying of groundwork for it, and its dynamism are evident.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Did you not make a number of unnecessary mistakes at this stage?

[Meciar] How much ado there has been about the national insurance system! Although individual elements in it may be flawed, the system as such is good. Yet the criticism was leveled at the system. The department of education, for example, is now working on a program for future changes. And this program already induces aversion because it is incomplete in some details. Changes in the structure of the state administration are being prepared. One of the actually existing mistakes, and a reason why the government is under such heavy fire today, has an objective base in that we make up by our own activity for the nonexistent horizontal structure of territorial bodies. For nine months the government has been supplanting these activities and performing them itself. There has to be decentralization. The arrangement of districts, municipal districts, and cities must be made functional. This arrangement should have been completed as early as 30 June 1991. The present situation is the consequence of a provisional arrangement that has lasted for two years. At my meeting with representatives of the Association of Towns and Communities I said the following: When we enter a room, we can lament that it is empty. That is one possibility. The other possibility is to buy the first piece of furniture. But there is no money to furnish the interior completely.

[NARODNA OBRODA] The universal shortage of money is one of the things that demoralize our people. All the postcommunist countries are broke. Why?

[Meciar] After the elections we took upon ourselves an enormous responsibility. We are starting with the foundations, even at the price of being temporarily misunderstood. Cheap effects that are of no benefit to the citizen are pointless. They would come to light after a while. In other words, if the citizen is dissatisfied, it is because he senses nothing but changes around him. He does not see their direction and cannot keep abreast of them. Look, for example, at the citizens of the former GDR. They are incomparably better off than they have ever been but they are incomparably more dissatisfied. Something similar is happening in our country. By speeding up transformation processes we are trying to head off a crisis. We are creating unrest by the very fact that something is going on. When we take steps to put the deformed relations in society on an economic footing, we are doing something that is a big unknown to the citizen. The citizen does not know what this or that is good for and how it will manifest itself. That is why everyone only feels that he is worse off.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Where is that hopeful light at the end of the tunnel?

[Meciar] I realize that this feeling of uncertainty is caustic. People are distrustfully asking: What are they actually preparing for us? How is this, why is this? The citizen does not see that these steps will be followed by...

[NARODNA OBRODA] ...even worse things to come, an even greater decline?

[Meciar] No, the decline will not get any worse, it is slowing down already. These steps will be followed by stabilization. The decline will simply come to a halt at some level and the situation will stop getting worse.

[NARODNA OBRODA] The question is when it will come to a halt and at which level.

[Meciar] The decline could continue, roughly, until the end of the year, by which time the economy will decline by another 3 to 6 percent, not more. The decline will stop then.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Will these difficulties not be multiplied by the adoption of the bankruptcy law?

[Meciar] It goes without saying that the law will interfere in the economic mechanism in a major way, but it will do so with a view to restoring economic health. Liquidation can be part of a remedy. First of all, the law should help us patch up the so-called black holes. Those who are irreversibly lost will stop consuming because they produce nothing of value. Second, we reckon that the chain of insolvency will be cut off in those organizations and that they will stop generating new chains, or that we will at least succeed in halting further chain reactions. But this represents no solution, of course. To prevent this, we asked that the law's coming into effect

be postponed by two months, to give us a chance to divide the bankruptcy proceedings into two parts. The first part is arbitration, in which creditors submit to the court the proposal to initiate bankruptcy proceedings. This step is followed by negotiations between all creditors and the company on whether it is more reasonable to let the company go bust or keep it alive and allow it to recover and achieve the return of one's claims in five or six years, for example. The aim of these arbitration proceedings is to activate a braking mechanism to prevent a domino effect. The bank must carefully consider whether to invest its money in a company. If the bank leaves the company without credit, the company will go bankrupt but the bank will never get its money back. Or the bank will lend money, allowing the company to recover, and may get its money back after a while. Hence, there will be a certain funnel for bankruptcies. But even though this will slow down the process, there will be bankruptcies. They will serve a purpose.

[NARODNA OBRODA] But do we have in place all the elements of the system needed to deal with bankruptcies? Are the commercial courts, for example, prepared to deal with bankruptcies?

[Meciar] We are considering making the appropriate courts and court secretaries one of the parties involved in arbitration proceedings. The Ministry of Justice is working on a proposal, under which it would be possible to have the bankruptcy proceedings take place outside the courts, in view of their being overburdened. A few hundred arbiters who receive the appropriate authorization will probably be able to decide in the name of the Ministry of Justice. It will be necessary to think through also other technical details. For example, if a company has a large number of creditors, they will be meeting in sport stadiums where a seven-member Board of Creditors will be elected to negotiate with the company management on the settlement of all claims. If we left this task to the present system of courts, not a single bankruptcy would probably be executed in years. That would be one extreme. The other extreme would be a domino effect that would crush everything. The government is moving between these two extremes and wants to eliminate them.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Mr. Prime Minister, do you not sometimes have the feeling, with hindsight, that when you formulated the original program of your movement, you committed errors, also in view of the changing internal and external circumstances? It seems to us that some authors of the economic program have lost their sense of reality and have no business being involved in the management of the economy. And we have the feeling that this can also be noticed in the activity of the government, which does not dissociate itself from them and keeps them in responsible positions.

[Meciar] First of all, I would not like to offend any of the people with whom I collaborate by belittling their expertise.

[NARODNA OBRODA] That is exactly why we deliberately did not mention anyone by name....

[Meciar] Several factors need to be taken into consideration. The program assumed a different sequence of steps than the one that subsequently evolved in practice. We assumed that the talks on the state arrangement would take much longer, that they would perhaps last the entire electoral term. The entire process was then practically over in six months. It required an enormous amount of energy. Dividing the state did not entail just talks with Mr. Klaus. It entailed the transport of thousands of different kinds of material and complicated property and financial settlement between a large number of organizations. Dividing political and international relations is not easy. It was a process that exhausted a great deal of energy and virtually all the [energy] reserves we had. In drafting a new program, it is therefore necessary to accept the changed reality of the existence of a new state. The new program must also respect the uneven results of the economic reform thus far. Though the rules of the economic reform were the same, the impact of the reform on the two republics was different. The economic decline in terms of gross national product [GNP] has already reached 30 percent and some experts assume that the decline has not ended yet and that GNP could fall by another 10 percent. This means that, at the nadir of economic decline, Slovak GNP would be a mere 60 percent of its 1989 level. That is the second factor that forces us to significantly change our rules of conduct. The third factor is the social feasibility of these relations. At the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] Assembly in Trnava, we tried to perceive social development in a different way and set tasks for the next two years. This period will be earmarked for the processes of transformation. In those two years positive changes should start making themselves felt and foundations should be laid for a society that will be neither socialist nor capitalist because both models are extremes that have been overtaken by developments. The future society should represent a new type of social relations. This transformation will proceed concurrently everywhere, with economic and noneconomic factors representing a ratio of approximately one to one. It will therefore be necessary to elaborate in a specific way the gradualist concept, for which neither the Czech Republic, Poland, nor Hungary have opted. Only some theoreticians have proceeded along the gradualist theses. To be certain, we also verify things that worked differently elsewhere, which makes our situation all the more complicated. On the other hand, social tolerability has already reached a level where dissatisfaction could lead to an uncalled-for explosion. In its wake there would no longer be any reform at all. A dictatorship would follow, which, for God's sake, we do not want under any circumstances.

[NARODNA OBRODA] How prepared is the HZDS, and are you personally, for a possible modification of the manner of government in Slovakia? How prepared are you for the formation of silent or open coalitions? With

whom would you be prepared to form a coalition and at what price? You face the options of either having to look for an ally for each case or forming a government based on a minimum of three parties. Do you consider such a possibility, which would arouse citizens' trust but also encourage the influx of foreign capital for the aforementioned transformation?

[Meciar] You know, many people tell me that they would like to help me. But many people literally trip me up. As soon as the government becomes destabilized and the psychosis of a need for changes is provoked, even those things that are in the process of being implemented will come to a halt. The HZDS worked out a perfect and unique program for creating the state. We have fulfilled this program, which means that one of the movement's key programs is being implemented. In the days to come we will have to concentrate on new tasks and adapt all structures of the movement, from the Presidium down to the districts, to the new conditions. We will be able to accomplish this within two months. New types of people, different experts will come. There will be a different structure of consultative bodies because the top people from them have left for the government or parliament and left behind a vacuum.

[NARODNA OBRODA] If you want to survive, however, you will inevitably have to communicate and cooperate with other political parties....

[Meciar] As for cooperation, the option of a direct coalition offers itself. We have not adopted restrictive measures against anyone regarding this option. Theoretically, there is also the option of ad hoc support. This option is good for the other parties but it is not for us because everything that is happening now, all the pain, is essentially borne by us. And the other parties speculate that the HZDS must bear this and cannot just drop everything.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Theoretically, you can....

[Meciar] Only theoretically. But we would then be finished politically.

[NARODNA OBRODA] Indeed. Everything has its price.

[Meciar] The HZDS must pass through this stage. The others are content with pointing to our mistakes and, at the moment when economic recovery starts, they will jump on the bandwagon or will assume the initiative themselves. Therefore, we cannot drop everything at this stage because we have not been able to establish in Slovakia the mechanism for an alternative solution. Talks with other political parties did take place, are taking place now, and will continue to take place. We do not consider this matter closed and its outcome depends also on the position of our partners. We must assess them realistically. Each party is now about to draft its new program because none of them has a program worked out for the changed conditions. Each of them is beset with internal tensions. And each of them will try to cope with these tensions by venting the demand for participation in the government. That would mean destabilization, however. After all, we cannot simply vacate all ministerial seats and the chance to fill the few seats of state secretaries that are vacant will hardly satisfy everyone. Apart from that, we must be linked with potential allies by programmatic affinity and we must see that they possess the necessary background in terms of personalities. Only then can we negotiate on what our cooperation should look like. Until all of this becomes crystallized, the responsibility will rest with us.

President Interviewed on Talks With Clinton

LD2504111093 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0705 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Interview granted by President Arpad Goncz to correspondent Miklos Kovacs in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kovacs] Did you discuss Hungary's defense requirements with President Clinton, that is, are there are any plans to purchase arms?

[Goncz] This was not mentioned concretely. However, we indicated that Hungary cannot defend its airspace, but, of course, nobody requires this from us. I discussed the use of Hungarian airspace with the President.

[Kovacs] In the United States, referring to experts, it is often said when talking about the Bosnian crisis that some sort of air attack should be carried out. Was there any request for using Hungarian airspace more actively?

[Goncz] This was not mentioned. If there are or will be such requests, they will inform us about it, but they are not going to tell me. It would obviously be done through military channels, officially.

There is incredible pressure on the administration to end the war by all means. And interestingly, my impression was that the opening of the Holocaust Museum and the increased and repeated reference to the fact of genocide only intensified this pressure. Thus, the two together, that is, the real and living reality at the moment and the memory, together created this atmosphere which, so to speak, underlined the necessity of a solution with a thick black line.

I said that Hungary is facing elections, but this does not alter the fact that Hungarian stability will continue. The elections will obviously take place legitimately, although one should not speculate on the outcome. The direction of Hungarian foreign policy will not change even in its emphasis; this is an historical necessity. [passage omitted]

[Kovacs] Is there any change in the way Hungary is treated now compared to the earlier government?

[Goencz] I met President Bush twice in the past. [passage omitted] What was surprising and a novelty for me, and I have to tell you this, is that at the time I was the guest of President Bush, the event took place amid the formalities of strict protocol. However, yesterday, the guests made themselves at home in the White House. Young, smiling women were running back and forth. The President was called to the telephone and he raced up the narrow staircase without [as heard] at least 12 security men following in his track. The whole thing was surprisingly relaxed, and by relaxed I do not mean the style of conversation, for the style of conversation was amazingly steely and to the point in both cases.

And I had another impression which was very reassuring for me: that close cooperation between the President and vice president is visible. Thus, they are obviously a pair when it comes to decision making.

[Kovacs] Mr. President, how do you judge the concept of the United States regarding eastern Europe?

[Goncz] At both meetings, my impression is that it is quite clear about the significance of eastern Europe. The other, which is more important, is that it is totally aware of the difference between central and eastern Europe, that is, that central Europe, as an intercultural and inter-European region, has a very special role in solving the eastern European question. I asked that the United States form some kind of unified stance regarding the handling of the region. In this, the Unites States, as a [word indistinct] military power and superpower at the moment has to undertake an initiative role. [passage omitted]

Gives News Conference on Return

LD2404141793 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1000 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Arpad Goncz, the Hungarian head of state, has just this minute arrived home from Washington. We go over to our staff member Kata Peli Nagy, who is at Ferihegy Airport [in Budapest].

[Nagy] The inauguration of the [Holocaust] Museum in Washington turned out to be a mini-summit. On this occasion, and during the talks which followed, it was mostly the Bosnian situation and genocide there that were on the agenda.

During his talks with President Clinton, which lasted for 15 minutes, and with Vice President Gore, which lasted for 45 minutes, Arpad Goncz particularly stressed that Hungary favors a peaceful solution. We even have to consider what kind of help and support to give either to Croatia or to Serbia and other nations in the region when the south Slav problem is finally resolved.

According to Arpad Goncz, there is no such thing as a guilty nation and there is no sense in retaliation either. The U.S. Administration has not promised any kind of defense or security guarantees but has taken note of our demands for that, Arpad Goncz said.

This is what Goncz said at a news briefing on his return from Washington 15 minutes ago.

Fur Comments on Talks With Slovak Counterpart

LD2304203293 Budapest MTI in English 1719 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, April 23 (MTI)—Slovakia attaches great importance to the cooperation of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia within the Visegrad group [Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland], said Hungarian Defence Minister Lajos Fur at a press briefing upon returning from talks with Slovak counterpart Imrich Andrejcak in Bratislava on Friday.

During the talks, Fur handed Andrejcak a draft of the agreement on inter-ministry cooperation.

He said the talks had been conducted in a calm and sober atmosphere.

Imrich Andrejcak said the Hungarian-Slovak border must be one of peace and calm, otherwise the region might suffer along with the two countries. Hungary and Slovakia have to establish good ties because the rival states may not be able enter the house of Europe, he said.

Additionally, Slovakia called for the two countries to cooperate in the training of UN peacekeeping forces, the training and exercising of air force and air defence, as well as in military technological development, Fur reported.

He said the SLovak partner had asked him about German and Russian military equipment deliveries to Hungary. Slovakia had thought these were purchases, but Fur explained that deliveries from Germany would come as aid, and from Russia as payment of debt.

Interior Minister Outlines Bill on Immigration

AU2204121993 Budapest MTI in English 1455 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, 20 April (MTI)—Due to weak regulation in previous years, illegal migration is now on a large scale in Hungary, putting the country most at risk in Europe today. Since October 1991, stricter conditions have been set on foreigners' entry to Hungary, and illegal immigrants have been extradited, Minister of the Interior Peter Boross told Parliament on Tuesday [20 April].

Boross was outlining the bill on entry to, stay in, and immigration to, Hungary by foreign citizens.

The bill aims to prevent the immigration of foreigners who lack the conditions needed for social adaptation. This does not apply to ethnic Hungarians abroad, or foreign refugees.

Both the political parties and the parliamentary committees supported the document.

Conditions for Lifting EC Meat Ban Rejected

LD2304160893 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Hungary does not agree with the conditions the Common Market wishes to lay down in order to lift the ban on meat imports.

An official expert of the Ministry of Agriculure maintains that the regulations will only complicate administration. The EC Committee on Veterinary Hygiene decided yesterday that it will only lift the meat ban if the exporting countries undertake to keep the animals in qurantine for seven weeks and if every animal is examined separately for signs of infection.

Alliance of Free Democrats Outlines Foreign Policy

AU2104095693 Budapest MTI in English 1223 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, 19 April (MTI)—The main spheres of Hungary's foreign policy should be ties with the European Community, regional cooperation, and security, an opposition Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] executive said at a press briefing on Monday [19 April].

Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, SZDSZ executive in charge of foreign policy issues, said the party saw no alternative to joining the EC, but a suitable domestic background for integration, of preparing citizens for membership of the EC, had yet to be created.

The SZDSZ attached great importance to the system of regional ties. It is in this system that Hungary had to find the forces of cooperation. The SZDSZ holds a pragmatic view that if conditions are insufficient for a breakthrough, small steps must be taken.

On the country's security policy, the party welcomed that the Parliament's policy was based on an active foreign policy rather than on the country's military power.

Security could be guaranteed only through international relations, and in building them, small steps were significant. Hungary had to establish closer ties with NATO step by step, said Istvan Szent-Ivanyi.

Spanish Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2304082493 Warsaw PAP in English 0755 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Warsaw on Friday, at the start of a two-day visit to Poland.

Later this morning, Gonzalez is scheduled to meet Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, and will be received by President Lech Walesa at the presidents official residence.

He will also meet the speakers of the Sejm (lower house) and Senate.

Meets With Prime Minister Suchocka

LD2304231093 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who is in Warsaw, has announced that Spain will abolish visas for Poles, probably in June.

Felipe Gonzalez is the first Spanish prime minister to pay an official visit to our country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez held talks with President Lech Walesa about the situation in Europe. In the opinion of the Spanish guest the recession in the West does not make it any easier to participate in aiding Central and Eastern Europe. In Lech Walesa's opinion the success of reforms in our part of Europe is linked to the necessity of supporting reforms in Russia.

The hour-long face-to-face talks of the heads of government of Spain and Poland were dominated by economic affairs. Both Hanna Suchocka and Felipe Gonzalez stressed the need to increase the volume of trade. After a standstill of several years this amounted, last year, to more than $220 million. We export—first and foremost—coal and steel scrap; from the Spaniards we buy mainly citrus fruit. There are 35 Polish-Spanish joint companies in Poland.

During a joint news conference by the two prime ministers, Hanna Suchocka said that she had hopes for ever larger Spanish investments in Poland.

[Begin Suchocka recording] I would like Spanish financial institutions to follow the lead of other countries and classify Poland among the group of countries which have a lower level of investment risk. This would give an impulse to the expansion of economic cooperation. [end recording]

Spain sees the possibility of cutting the time during which import restrictions on Polish goods will be in force, especially for textiles and steel. In the opinion of Prime Minister Suchocka the Spaniards will be our allies in our efforts to achieve full membership of the EEC.

[Begin Gonzalez recording, in Spanish fading to Polish translation] We are convinced that a country such as Poland—which has achieved much economic reform—should become part of the EC. However at present it is difficult to speak of a specific timetable for Poland's entry into the EC. [end recording]

The Polish and Spanish prime ministers shared their experiences in leading coalition governments. Observers do not exclude the possibility of a defeat for Felipe Gonzalez and his Socialist Party in the elections which are to take place in six weeks' time.

The Spanish guest talked about the electoral law and privatization laws with the Sejm and the Senate speakers. Shortly before noon Prime Minister Gonzalez laid a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Tomorrow the head of the Spanish Government and Spanish businessmen are to meet Foreign Affairs Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski.

Meets With Skubiszewski, Ends Visit

LD2404144993 Warsaw PAP in English 1415 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 24—Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez ended his Polish visit on Saturday afternoon after being bidden farewell by Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka.

Earlier on Saturday, Premier Gonzalez met with Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski.

During a meeting attended by Spanish businessmen Premier Gonzalez spoke in favour of facilitating the economic cooperation between Spain and Poland, and declared that talks on Polish debt to Spain will start in May. He said that Poland deserves help and support on her way to European structures.

Latvian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2504152293 Warsaw PAP in English 1443 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 25—Latvia's Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis on Sunday arrived in Warsaw for an official visit.

The programme of the visit, to start on Monday, includes meetings with Poland's President Lech Walesa, Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, plenary talks at the Foreign Ministry and the Cabinet Office and the signing of a Polish-Latvian investment protection agreement.

Latvia's prime minister is accompanied by Ministers of Agriculture Dainis Gegers, Health Teodors Enins and Deputy Foreign Minister Maris Gallis.

Meets With Suchocka, Signs Agreement

LD2604110193 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 0900 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis has met with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka today in the Council of Ministers' office.

[Unidentified correspondent] We consider Poland as a country whose example we have been following, Prime Minister Godmanis said, following the signing of an agreement on mutual support and the protection of industrial investment. That is why the development of the situation in Poland is very important to us, he added.

Prime Minister Suchocka said that the two prime ministers mainly discussed economic issues during the talks. She recalled that mutual turnover has increased threefold recently. The talks also concerned privatization issues and their connection with processes in the social sector. They also discussed the transfer of old age and disability pensions. The Latvian prime minister promised that they would deal with this issue after the election. Reciprocal health arrangements were also touched upon.

Military Contacts Pact Concluded With Belarus

AU2304130793 Warsaw PAP in English 2143 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Minsk, April 22—Defence Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz and his Belarusian counterpart Pavel Kozlovsky have signed an "agreement on bilateral military contacts" between Poland and Belarus during the Polish minister's two-day visit to the Belarusian capital Minsk that ended today.

The agreement provides for the exchange of training and technological experience, joint overhauling of military equipment and the coordination of positions on issues of mutual concern to both countries.

At a press conference today, Minister Onyszkiewicz replied to questions related to Belarusian officials' statements, preceding the visit, on a potential threat Poland poses to Belarus.

Questions to this effect were also asked during Minister Onyszkiewicz's talks with the chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich and the chairman of the Council of Ministers Vyacheslav Kebich.

Dispelling these doubts, Minister Onyszkiewicz explained that the recent redeployment of the Polish Army and the reinforcement of border units was meant to deploy the Polish army evenly on the entire Polish territory and had nothing to do with Belarus.

He added that the Polish Army has decreased its manpower practically beyond the level declared in Helsinki and is planning to limit the number of tanks from 2,800 to 1,730.

Summing up the results of his talks, Onyszkiewicz said they might help the Belarusian side understand better Polish intentions, Polish military doctrine and sentiments Poland has for Belarus, its aspirations and the process of statehood formation. He added that he hopes that the voices expressing anxiety about Poland would fade away and that no Belarusian political decisions would be made out of fear of Poland.

Legal Accord Signed With Ukraine

LD2304223393 Warsaw PAP in English 2107 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Kiev, April 23—Deputy justice ministers of Poland and Ukraine Jadwiga Skorzewska-Losiak and Vladimir Stefanuk respectively initialled an agreement on legal assistance and legal relations in civil and penal cases in Kiev on Friday.

The agreement, to be signed during a visit of President Lech Walesa to Ukraine planned for the end of May, regulates the conditions of both extradition and cooperation between courts and prosecutors offices of Poland and Ukraine.

"The agreement corresponds with the Council of Europe conventions which strictly specify the conditions which such a document should satisfy," Jadwiga Skorzewska-Losiak said.

On Saturday, the Polish delegation will leave for Moscow where similar talks are to be held.

Walesa Receives Danish Parliament Members

AU2604094493 Warsaw PAP in English 1815 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Gdansk, April 24—The deepening conflict in Yugoslavia has highlighted the need to strengthen the peacekeeping role of the United Nations, President Lech Walesa said in Gdansk today, at a meeting with Danish parliamentarians.

Walesa received the delegation, headed by Ivar Hansen, deputy president of the Danish parliament, at the Gdansk shipyard, birthplace in 1980 of the Solidarity trade union. He stressed that, following the fall of communism, Europe needed a new vision.

"I propose that (permanent) United Nations forces should be set up, so as to avoid a repetition of situations such as Yugoslavia, and to ensure the inviolability of frontiers and prevent the use of force to resolve international problems," he said. "Everyone has the right to freedom, but that freedom must not threaten the freedom of others. Because there is a lack of a new vision in Europe, the demons of chauvinism and nationalism are awakening."

The president called for intensification of reforms in Poland and the other countries of Central Europe, and for their entry into the European Communities.

Later, the Danish parliamentarians met with members of the Presidium of the National Commission of the Solidarity trade union, where they were advised on the state of Poland's trade union movement, and discussed the sections of the Polish-EC treaty of association relating to social security.

The delegation's visit to Poland ends on Sunday.

Walesa Wants Aid to Russia Channelled via Central Europe

LD2304105793 Warsaw PAP in English 1007 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—The idea of channelling western economic aid to Russia via the countries of Central Europe is not intended to harm Russia, but rather to offer a satisfactory solution to the problems facing the whole region, President Lech Walesa said in Warsaw on Friday, following his return from the United States.

"The proposal is a wiser, more logical reform in the right direction, which will at the same time resolve political problems which have been unfavourable for us and for Europe for centuries. It is not an anti-Russian gesture," President Walesa told reporters at Okecie Airport.

The president also said that Poland had been listened to "with respect" in America, "which means there will be a serious resolution of our problems."

Commenting on the case of the five Poles awaiting trial in a New York jail on charges of illegal arms dealing with Iraq, President Walesa said that he had raised the issue with President Clinton. "One can certainly arrest arms dealers, but we can also do what I propose: Offer assistance to reorientate production from arms factories. (...) We don't want to produce arms, we want to produce useful goods, but for that we need money," Walesa said.

Kaczynski Calls on Center-Right to Unite

AU2204090093 Warsaw PAP in English 1439 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 21—The leader of the Centre Alliance (PC) Jaroslaw Kaczynski declared today his party was "in fundamental opposition to the government and the president." He also called on other centre-right groups to unite and create "a new Polish state that will have nothing in common with the communist state."

Interviewed by PAP a few days before the opening in Sosnowiec, Silesia, of his party congress, Kaczynski voiced sharp criticism of the political and economic situation in Poland. "The rule of Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka is the first stage of a communist backlash," he said. "We are dealing with an increasing strength of post-communist structures and the adoption by the present ruling team of some of the practices known from the communist past. The power of the state should be strong, but not at the expense of democracy," Kaczynski stressed. "We must react to this challenge," he assured.

Kaczynski sees no hope for a rapid economic improvement and views the economic situation as bad, citing such phenomena as the budget deficit, falling demand, pauperization of society, and the deficit in foreign trade.

Commenting on the political position of his party, Kaczynski recalled that the PC "refused to renounce its stand in exchange for participation in the present cabinet. Thus we did not take the road which the Christian National Union (ZChN) took. We are in fundamental opposition to the government and the president."

Pointing to the need for the centre-right parties to establish a common front, Kaczynski listed the following groups as potential allies: the Movement for the Republic of Poland (RDR), the Movement of the Third Polish Republic (RTR), the Christian Democratic Party of Labour (ChDSP), the Polish Action (AP), and the ZChN and the Polish Convention (KP), provided the latter two change their position.

According to Kaczynski, "the existing political setup has exhausted its potential for governing" and new parliamentary elections are necessary.

Gasoline Prices Set To Increase 25 Apr

LD2304094993 Warsaw PAP in English 0934 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 23—Gasoline prices in Poland will go up by an average 8 per cent as of April 25, the Finance Ministry announced on Friday.

The standard "etylina-94" gasoline will cost 9,200 zlotys (some 56 cents) per litre, while the price for non-leaded fuel was set at 9,100 zlotys.

Conference Views Polish Agriculture Prospects

AU2304130593 Warsaw PAP in English 1916 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 22—The poor condition of Polish agriculture is the effect of the condition of the entire economy and not of faulty agricultural policy, Minister for European Integration Jan Krzysztof Bielecki said on opening a conference on prospects of the development of Polish agriculture in Miedzeszyn near Warsaw today.

Bielecki claimed that the success of the Polish economic reforms is conditional on access to western markets, particularly for food and textiles.

The participants in the conference said that Polish economists and politicians face a dilemma concerning the scope of state intervention in the sphere of agriculture, which boils down to various form of subsidies. They stressed that the Polish economy was moving towards a free market and Poland has signed an association agreement with the European Communities (EC) where agriculture is heavily subsidized.

The conference was organized by the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture and attended by academics from western and eastern Europe.

Iliescu Meets With Gore, IMF Officials

AU2304141393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0904 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest Rompres 23/4/1993—Romania's president, Ion Iliescu, met on Wednesday, 22 April, with Al Gore, vice president of the United States. Reviewed were issues regarding bilateral relations and international developments especially in former Yugoslavia. Vice president Al Gore considered that it was a new stage of collaboration the two countries are witnessing. The American Administration, Al Gore pointed out, appreciates the setting up under the Romanian Government aegis of a Council for the Minorities. Mr. Gore expressed his support for granting Romania the most favoured nation [MFN] clause. The sides examined certain ways of bilateral collaboration. President Iliescu advanced the idea of a Romanian-American collaboration on environment protection for the Danube delta and the delta of the Mississippi River, for both states are concerned by this issue. The idea had been regarded with interest by Vice President Al Gore.

Approaching issues related to the conflict in Yugoslavia, the American vice president appreciated Romania's position. In the concept of the American Administration, Romania's position is a firm option for collaboration with Western countries on one hand, and for democracy on the other.

Romania's president met also with the president of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus. Mr. Camdessus informed that the institution he is heading is open and willing to act together with Romanian experts for clarifying and solving problems related to the signing of the stand-by agreement for Romania.

The IMF president had the opportunity to learn a detailed information on the Romanian Government's programme of reform and on the appreciation the Bucharest authorities are showing for the considerable support granted by this world institution in most difficult situations.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu, now in the U.S., met with Claybourne Pell, chairman of the U.S. Senate External Relations Committee, who was accompanied by several fellow senators. They discussed aspects of the economic reform, the situation of minorities, orphans and handicapped children. "Those who participated in this interview have a more comprehensive and realistic image of the situation in our country," said presidential spokesman, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu.

President Iliescu also met with Charles Vanik. The former congressman expressed admiration at the democratic changes in Romania and promised his full support to a fair understanding of the situation in the country, to an attitude encouraging and sustaining the process of reform.

The firm support to the changes in Romania was communicated to President Iliescu also by Arthur Schneyer, president of the Appeal for Conscience Foundation, with whom he met on Thursday. He said he was ready to work for the building, through a broader information in good faith, of a congenial atmosphere in the American Congress, which is absolutely necessary for a realistic decision on the MFN matter. Equally important, he opined, was to stimulate the interest of various foreign companies, American more specifically, to start or resume business with companies in Romania.

Such aspects pursuing specifically the relations of Romanian entrepreneurs with partners abroad were analyzed by President Iliescu on Thursday together with Boeing representatives. They reiterated their interest in doing business in Romania. Understandings are likely to be concluded on the use by Boeing of specialized production units that are underused in Romania, as well as joint projects in aircraft maintenance and repair in Europe.

Iliescu Attacked for Attending Commemoration

AU2404153793 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 21 Apr 93 p 1

[Sergiu Andon editorial: "Iliescu Under Attack From Three Directions"]

[Text] A breeze of disappointment is blowing from the direction of leftist nationalism in connection with the president's dual prostration on the occasion of the extensive world commemoration of the Jewish people's martyrdom. According to the age group, education, and temperament, the disappointment was expressed through sighs, grumbles, and political threats.

The irritation caused by Mr. Iliescu's visit to the Main Synagogue [Templul Coral] was so intense that—strangely enough—it rallied the protests by the leftist nationalists and the boycott of center non-nationalists. It goes without saying that the traditional opposition of the president came up with different arguments than his inconvenient allies; they do not protest the fact that he participated in that event but the virtues of the participant. However, the differences in the arguments do not count as much as the fact that the logic of intolerance proves to be the strongest ideology in our country.

To complicate things even more, such indignation also came from another, a third direction—namely from Jewish circles, who denied this state pilgrim the right to protocol piety toward the Jewish people. Their reasons —valid by themselves—stress the anomalous nature of this whole situation: Mr. Iliescu is accused of tolerating—so far—anti-Semite publications, which is precisely what he is trying to correct now by counteracting intolerance with a tolerant gesture.

Thus, Mr. Iliescu found himself surrounded by three concentric attacks. Did he by any means make a political mistake? Let us examine the main risks assumed.

The question is raised that the world Jewry could make use of this precedent to demand reparations from

Romania. It is unlikely that they depend on our poverty and will risk—for no reason whatsoever—to arouse the hostility of tolerant and friendly people with whom they have always been on good terms, both at home and abroad; if, however, under the influence of traditional opponents, unjustified reparations were demanded from us, what would President Iliescu's conciliatory step mean? An encouragement of what is wrong, or a chance to defuse ill intentions?!

Others bitterly comment that Mr. Iliescu's trip across the ocean is designed to court an audience with Mr. Clinton. But the activity of a head of state does not only boil down to inflexible pride. Rigidity and flexibility are part and parcel of politics, including state protocol. What is important is the political objective and the price paid to achieve it or the attempt to change the attitude of the Americans toward us—an attitude fanned by so many gaffes and unloyal actions by others—and the need to avoid transnational political subservience, all of which constitute quite important interests to be worth the patience and a display of modesty.

Mr. Iliescu's third risk would be to lose the political support of the nationalist left. This is a process that will take place anyhow. In addition, the presidential mandate is guaranteed for a four-year term and it is absolutely premature to already think in terms of the balance between supporters and opponents.

But, as you see, given these considerations, we also fall prey to letting political speculations prevail over a ceremony that was organized in the name of piety. Today no one contests people's right to collect their thoughts and the privilege of the fallen ones to be commemorated. All of us are too intelligent and too atheist to let ourselves be "fooled." How sad it is to realize that we will never be naive again.

Vacaroiu Leaves for Athens, Makes Statement

AU2604093693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0854 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 26/4/1993—Romania's premier, Nicolae Vacaroiu, left Monday, April 26, for Greece, at the invitation of his counterpart, Konstandinos Mitsotakis.

He told the press on the Otopeni Airport that he was going to have some ten interviews with Greek personalities, among whom the president of the republic, the president of the national bank, the minister of national economy, businessmen, and ship owners. Romania and Greece want to enhance their commercial ties, added the Romanian prime minister. He will present the results obtained by his country over the two-and-a-half years of reform, of transition to a market economy. The parties will sign the instruments of ratification of the friendship, cooperation, and good neighborliness agreement between Romania and Greece. Issues will be tackled concerning cooperation in the Balkans and the Black Sea countries. Talks will be conducted on the situation in Yugoslavia and the position of Romania and Greece, said Premier Vacaroiu. "I think the visit will have concrete results in the opening of a financial line of about $50 million, allowing Greek investors to further cooperate with Romania," mentioned Premier Vacaroiu.

The Romanian delegation includes representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, transport, Romania's national bank, and other officials.

Inspection of Vessels in Galati Harbor Continues

AU2204150193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Upon request of the customs authorities, the Galati [Danube] Harbor Master's Office has stopped 15 convoys sailing under Ukrainian, Czech, Bulgarian, and Hungarian flags.

A control team of representatives of the Harbor Master's Office, customs, and border police, together with UN representatives accredited to Galati Harbor, are engaged in inspecting the convoys and approving the rapid passage of those complying with the terms of the embargo imposed on Serbia and Montenegro.

Two vessels—one under Yugoslav flag and the other a Slovak vessel—have been held in Galati Harbor since, respectively, 13 March and 15 April.

Two vessels sailing under the Ukrainian flag, Astrakhan and Kapitan Yirushkyn, received permission today to continue their journey up the Danube. Those vessels are loaded with iron ore intended for Austria and Germany.

Five vessels—four under the Ukrainian and one under the Hungarian flag—are being inspected now. Those vessels are transporting iron ore from Ismail [Ukraine] to Linz [Austria] and Dunaujvaros [Hungary].

At 1300 [1000 GMT] five vessels, four Ukrainian and one Bulgarian, entered Galati Harbor and are being prepared for inspection. Their barges are transporting iron ore and rolled iron products.

Secret Service Reportedly Operating in Moldova

AU2104152593 Budapest PESTI HIRLAP in Hungarian 19 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Romanian Secret Police Personnel in Moldova—Reunification By All Means"]

[Text] At the end of 1992 the head of the Romanian Information Service, the successor of the infamous Securitate, issued a surprising statement: "I will soon make it public that the Romanian special services will be among the first to prepare the unification of Romania and Moldova."

This statement, lacking any diplomatic acumen, caused a great turmoil in Bucharest and Chisinev because much more "streamlined" statements have been made in both

capitals so far about this rather sensitive issue for both sides. The time that has passed since the aforementioned statement seems to justify the "first Romanian spy." A newspaper called "BUKOVINA" and published in the Ukrainian city of Cernauti carried a Romanian letter that proves that Magureanu's words are in harmony with his deeds.

The author of this letter, who is in direct contact with the Romanian secret services, claims that the aforementioned services are preparing a series of actions aimed at destabilizing Moldova. In addition to Moldova, their plans also include the Dniester region, Bukovina, and the southern part of the Odessa region. The young people whom the chairman of the Moldovan People's Front proposed for this task are trained in special schools in Romania, and these young people already have combat experience because they fought in Afghanistan and in the Dniester region, and they also speak fluent Russian and Ukrainian in addition to Romanian. Their training is taking place partly at the training base of the antiterrorist unit of the Romanian Interior Ministry and partly at the Dinamo sports club near Bucharest. According to the author of the letter, the task of the Moldovan special action group is to be ready for a certain day "X" when terrorist actions destabilizing the situation in Chisinev and Tyraspol can begin. Among the possible "targets" there are Moldovan and Dniester politicians and various embassies, like the Russian, U.S. and Turkish representations. The final goal of these terrorist actions is to create favorable conditions for a coup in Moldova.

It is worth mentioning that the training of Moldovan terrorists in Romania is taking place under the direct supervision of the Moldovan People's Front. The fact that former Moldovan Prime Minister Mircea Druc and Iurie Rosca, the chief ideologist of the People's Front, paid repeated visits to the training base proves all of this. Both of them are well known for their Romanian commitment.

PAC Congress Opens in Timisoara

AU2304201593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1431 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 23/4/1993—Timisoara hosts starting Friday, April 23, a three-day congress of the Civic Alliance Party [PAC], which will analyze and debate reports, amendments to the PAC statute, draft, and motions. The congress will elect new steering bodies and decide on the new name of the party. Attending are about 600 delegates form all the counties of Romania and more than 100 guests including journalists. Debates proper will start Friday afternoon with the validation of mandates and the endorsement of the agenda. PAC Chairman Nicolae Manolescu will present the general report of the congress and Eugen Vasiliu will read out the economic report. The Auditing Commission will present its report equally on Friday, when debates will start on the general report.

Manolescu Reelected as President

AU2504182493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1719 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/4/1993—Sunday, April 25, the participants in the last day of the first national congress of the Civic Alliance Party of Romania (PAC) re-elected Nicolae Manolescu to the office of president of that party.

Nicolae Manolescu has been accused of dictatorial tendencies by several leading members of PAC, who also resigned from their offices on that occasion, and their prominence as intellectuals and politicians gave rise to many discussions in the Romanian press.

PAC is a political extension of the Civic Alliance, an organization founded by the Romanian opposition intellectuals.

The PAC congress was also called upon to give a clear definition of that party's political orientation, and several alternatives have been discussed so far—civic-liberal, civic-democratic and civic-Christian democratic.

Bosnian Serb Deputies Reject Vance-Owen Plan

LD2604042893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0416 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Bijeljina, 26 Apr (TANJUG)—The Serb republic parliament did not accept the Vance-Owen plan despite the appeal of the presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia, and Montenegro—Cosic, Milosevic, and Bulatovic. The decision was made at an emergency session of the parliament, which ended in Bijeljina early this morning.

Serb Referendum on Vance-Owen Set for 15-16 May

LD2604060393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0535 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Bijeljina, 26 Apr (TANJUG)—A referendum on the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina will be held in the Serb republic on 15 and 16 May, the deputies of the Serb republic parliament decided early this morning at the emergency session in Bijeljina. [passage omitted]

Serb Republic-RSK Assembly Approved

LD2304115593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1106 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Novi Grad, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—The Assembly of the Serb republic (in Bosnia-Herzegovina) today adopted a draft decision on the formation of a community of assemblies of the Serb republic and the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] at a session which opened this morning. The RSK assembly had already adopted the same decision at a session recently held in Okucani.

Out of the total of 82 deputies, 66 are attending today's session. Only one deputy voted against the decision and three deputies abstained. Opposing views were voiced during a one-hour debate about the draft decision, which preceded the voting. A group of deputies defended the view that in the current situation the only realistic option is to proceed slowly toward the full integration of all Serbian lands. The second group advocated an immediate and full integration, arguing that whatever Serbs do now, the world will condemn them.

The first option, the gradual approach to unification, won. So, the draft decision was adopted to form a community of the assemblies of the Serb republic and the RSK, modelled on a regional community such as the EC.

There will be 82 deputies from each assembly in the community of assemblies. The community will have a council of ministers and coordination bodies to make joint decisions in the field of foreign policy, defense, security, credit and monetary policy, and financial policy.

A four-member strong commission was set up at the session. The commission has been empowered to compose, together with an RSK commission, a final draft decision for tomorrow's joint session of deputies of the Serb republic and the RSK. The commission has also been authorized to accept some modifications to the draft decision adopted today.

Karadzic Addresses Serb Assembly

LD2504225893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2141 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Bijeljina, 25 Apr (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb republic, said at the Serb republic's parliament session in Bijeljina this evening that "the session is historic, not only for the Serbian nation, but also for the whole of the Balkans and even for Europe."

He explained: "This is a serious moment, perhaps the most serious moment in the history of the Serb nation, perhaps as difficult as Lazar's Kosovo supper and Kosovo's St. Vitus' Day. Such forces have descended upon us that we have to make a responsible decision about everything in order to mark the further fate of the Serbian nation in times to come," he said.

Karadzic added that "a machinery in full swing has come down on the Serb nation which is faced with forced division. We are threatened and openly told what will happen. All this is accompanied by unprecedented pressure on our brothers in Serbia. Even if we sign the maps, they say the old sanctions will not be removed," he said.

The president of the Serb republic added that the Serb republic's army is almost not fighting a war at the moment. Hot lines extend for only about 10 km, excluding provocations. The Serbs are not fighting a war and are doing everything to hold the cease-fire. Despite this, the world's media are trying to fill the front pages of all papers by portraying us as "the sinners."

It was confirmed during the talks in Zagreb and Belgrade that if the Serb republic's army withdraws from the non-Serb provinces, it would be replaced by UN protection forces, and that neither Croatian nor Muslim armies would come to these territories, Karadzic said.

He explained that it has been established that the border commission can make some marginal changes of the borders, but that the borders cannot be included in the constitution until they are confirmed by consensus. Such a demarcation, he said, would lead from the period of war to a period of peace.

According to him, the situation in the field will be taken into account "because this cannot be easily ignored."

We should see now whether we can rely on what is being offered to us and whether we can realize our goals in an indirect way, Karadzic said.

Karadzic informed deputies at the emergency session in Bijeljina that threats of military intervention should be taken seriously and that they are facing a difficult and a painful decision, maybe the most fateful one in the history of the Serb nation. According to Karadzic, Serbs face a threat of intervention by NATO planes, already deployed in Bosnia, if they do not sign the plan. "Maybe there will be an incident similar to the one with the Italian plane. It is certain that the Serbs were not responsible in that case but another incident could provoke an attack on all our military positions, military facilities, industrial facilities, bridges and frontlines if they could distinguish between our and our enemy's frontlines," Karadzic explained.

In that case, western powers would help the enemies of the Serbs to puncture Serb lines and turn the military developments and war fortune in their favor. "We cannot and we must not hide this from our people. They [Western powers] can shoot because they have the political will and they are arrogant. This arrogant will has a horrific energy and we must ask ourselves who can block this will," Karadzic said.

According to Karadzic, in addition to a military intervention the Serbs are also threatened with the imposition of sanctions not only against Yugoslavia but against the Serb republic and the republic of the Serbian Krajina. "They are treating us as one state when it comes to suffering and misfortune and they are punishing us because of our justified aspiration to be at least spiritually, culturally, and politically integrated if we cannot achieve a state integration," Karadzic stressed.

Pointing out that Gorbachev was rewarded for German unification, Karadzic said that Serbs are prevented from declaring their right to unite and that consequently they are now declaring only their right to establish state entities in the territories which they inhabit. Karadzic said that Serbs must follow an ambition to at least establish some kind of an association or a regional organization of Serb states.

"They know what hurts us. They are pressing Yugoslavia and if we do not sign this plan Yugoslavia will have an even heavier chain around its neck and it will have to cope to survive and to persevere. They know that this is painful for us because we [Bosnian and Yugoslav Serbs] are brothers," Karadzic said.

According to Karadzic, the international community is attacking Yugoslavia heedlessly with horrible "genocidal resolutions" expecting that the Serb republic will have this in mind when it makes the decision. "Fortunately nobody is now mentioning the bombing of Yugoslavia because it is now clear to everybody that it is not involved in the war. Yugoslavia is threatened with sanctions not because it is a side in the conflict but because allegedly it is not using enough of its influence to make us stop the war as if we did not stop waging war," Karadzic said.

"They are accusing us," he continued, "that we won this war but we did not do that because that was not our intention. We did not capture Sarajevo, Travnik, Srebrenica, and many other cities that we could have taken. We did not take them and we did not win the war on somebody else's territories. We succeeded in protecting our nation in its historical and ethnic areas," Karadzic said.

Karadzic told the deputies that they should decide whether the Serb nation will continue the struggle for their rights and the realization of their strategic goals and interests through a new arrangement offered by Lord Owen with certain guarantees, or whether it will continue suffering and persevere in their demands despite all risks of blockade, sanctions, separation from the parent country, and a possible military strike.

He also noted that it was possible that the embargo on the import of arms for the Muslims would be lifted and that mujahedin from abroad would come to their aid.

He added that the Muslims can expect assistance in the form of air strikes followed by infantry support in order to turn the war situation to their advantage and conquer some Serb areas, in which case the consequences for Serb civilians are obvious.

Karadzic said that while the Serbs were inactive around Srebrenica, the Muslims were attacking around Tuzla, Zivinice, and Kladanj, and that they had taken the village of Pelemis. The world pays no attention to this, but is still trying to invent Serb attacks in order to provide a fresh impetus for those who are attacking the Serbs.

"I have therefore invited General Mackenzie [former UN Protection Force commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina] to come and see us and visit the Canadian battalion. He, who knows all their plots very well, can inform his soldiers and compatriots about the possibility that a fresh artillery attack on Srebrenica will be staged and that we will be accused of having launched it. He arrived in Belgrade this evening [25 April], and I will have a meeting with him tomorrow," Karadzic said.

The president of the Serb republic noted that the world media had prepared programs that would be rebroadcast hour after hour showing unseen horrors of alleged rivers of blood. He recalled that these programs are always broadcast on the eve of passing important decisions, and added that he believed the media campaign against Serbs was directed from one center.

Karadzic told the deputies that if they decide not to accept the maps, they have to be ready for many sacrifices and risks.

"We have to become ready for the people to eat little and save a lot, to change to a war style of living; we have to be prepared for a difficult Golgotha whose culmination will soon follow if we do not sign the Vance-Owen plan,"

he stressed, warning that in that case the Serbs in both Bosnia and Yugoslavia will face difficult times.

Karadzic noted he had received certain guarantees that the Serbs in Bosnia do not have to give up their demands for the correction of the maps if the maps and the Vance-Owen plan are accepted in full. According to him, the Serbs were asked to join the [Bosnia-Herzegovina] Presidency and a commission that would deal with border disputes.

He told the deputies that the meeting with Owen had not yielded any results except for some explanations. "We believed that with the memorandum on understanding we could make progress that would enable us to accept the arrangement for the interim period," he said, specifying that the memorandum suggests the formation of certain joint bodies and the defining of conditions under which the Serbs could sign the peace plan in its entirety.

As he explained, Owen rejected the memorandum allegedly because he could not sign it in the absence of the other two warring sides. Karadzic noted, however, that yesterday Owen had signed a document on the cease-fire between the Muslims and Croats and on the creation of their joint crisis headquarters.

Karadzic reiterated that Owen had offered only the known option—a corridor through the Posavina area, the kind of solution Germany experienced. The Serb side therefore asked for an explanation as to what guarantees it will be given if it signs the maps.

"Owen promised us that if we returned to the [Bosnia-Herzegovina] Presidency, standing orders on the Presidency's work would be adopted by consensus. We recalled that after the acceptance of the constitutional principles, an agreement was reached to accept the maps by consensus, but that this was betrayed, and everything was accepted without our consent," Karadzic said.

According to him, however, Owen gave assurances that the Presidency could function only after the standing orders are adopted by consensus. This would be very important for the Serbs, Karadzic said, because they have had bad experiences with the assembly of the former socialist Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which the decision on the republic's secession from Yugoslavia was passed by out-voting the Serbs.

It has been confirmed in talks in both Zagreb and Belgrade and, according to Karadzic, a written confirmation is also a possibility, that the Serb army withdrawing from the Serb area outside the Serb provinces would not be replaced by either the Croatian Defense Council or the Muslim forces but by UNPROFOR.

He explained that under Owen's proposals, Serb militia, to be formed to reflect the percentage of the Serb population, would remain in these areas.

For instance, in the Sava and Una river basins there would be no Croat or Muslim army but the Serb police and UNPROFOR to protect the Serb population. After two years, elections would be organized to establish, on the basis of facts, that there was a Serb population in those territories and the territories would become Serb controlled.

This version is similar to the Serb proposal to accept the undisputed part of the maps and to continue negotiations about their controversial parts, Karadzic said.

According to Karadzic, border commissions would have the power to carry out marginal changes, and in the case of any substantial changes, decisions would be made by a consensus of the Presidency. Unless changes in a border are made on the basis of a consensus, they would not become a provision of the republic's constitution, Karadzic announced.

Measures are also envisaged to facilitate the implementation of a decision to allow free movement of people, which has so far been signed by all three warring sides on several occasions. In addition, there is a possibility of reaching an agreement not to recognize the continuity of former Bosnia-Herzegovina. This implies that the Serbs would not be affected by any of the likely consequences of the Muslim concept of the continuity of this former Yugoslav republic.

"We have to see if we can rely on what is being offered to us, if in an indirect way we can achieve our goals, preserve our unity, and initiate corrections to the maps," Karadzic said in conclusion.

Karadzic: Owen Refused 'Memorandum of Understanding'

LD2504193493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1836 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Bijeljina, 25 April (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina], said upon his arrival at the assembly session in Bijeljina this evening that he has offered a memorandum of understanding to David Owen, cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia. The memorandum explained the method and conditions under which the Serbs can accept the arrangement for the interim period.

According to Karadzic, Lord Owen was not ready to accept the memorandum, and therefore the Serb side could not sign the map proposal or the arrangement for the interim period.

"We therefore took certain steps leading toward a compromise in order to make it possible for us to accept at least the arrangement for the interim period," Karadzic stressed. "However, Lord Owen offered only the right of passage through Posavina, and nothing else."

According to Karadzic, the leadership of the Serb republic will tell the truth to the deputies. "We will present them all the threats [as received], the current circumstances, and the chances of achieving something if

we sign, as well as the circumstances and misfortunes which might occur if we do not sign," Karadzic said.

"We will openly tell everything to the deputies, and they will reach a decision with the utmost responsibility. We will probably work for a long time; we have to make a decision with full responsibility. The people must know the truth about everything, and we will see what happens. I cannot predict it now," Karadzic said.

President of the Serb republic Radovan Karadzic and assembly president Momcilo Krajisnik arrived in Bijeljina at 19:30 this evening to attend a session of the parliament which is to reach a fateful decision on whether the Vance-Owen plan can be accepted in its entirety.

The assembly has already accepted the principles and the documents on the cessation of hostilities, but not the maps whereby the Serbs in former Bosnia-Herzegovina would lose 20 percent of the territory, would be ghettoed and cut off from Yugoslavia, and would also lose 47 percent of their population.

Sanctions Against Serbs Expected 'Regardless'

LD2504152393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1459 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Kragujevac, April 25 (TANJUG)—The sanctions against the Serb people will be enforced starting Monday regardless of whether they sign the Vance-Owen map, because Lord Owen has made this clear, Bosnian Serb republic assembly president Momcilo Krajisnik told the local radio station of Kragujevac (Serbia) on Sunday.

Krajisnik said that the international community does not aim to end the war in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but "to divide Serbia."

According to Krajisnik, this plan applies both for Serbia and Russia, as well as India and China.

Its creators will open fronts in other regions and this is why "it is necessary to hold out," he said.

"Now is the time, if the solution is bad, to say the historical 'no,'" Krajisnik said alluding to Yugoslavia's "no" to Stalin in 1948.

NATO Planes Detect 3 Radar Signals Over No-Fly Zone

AU2304154893 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Vicenza, Italy, April 23 (AFP)—Six NATO fighter planes detected three more radar signals over Bosnia-Herzegovina that probably indicated violations of the U.N.-imposed no-fly zone, the allied command force said Friday [23 April].

The signals were detected Thursday [22 April] as part the United Nations' Operation Deny Flight, designed to enforce the air exclusion zone over Bosnia.

In each case, the radar signals stopped before North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) pilots could make a visual identification, the allied command said in a statement.

Two Dutch fighter planes detected the first signal near the Bosnian Serb base of Zaluzani, near Banja Luka in northern Bosnia, the statement said.

Two American fighter planes picked up the second signal in the Banja Luka region, and two other American pilots detected the third signal near Kotorsko.

Two similar incidents took place Monday [19 April] and Tuesday [20 April].

NATO fighter planes flew 34 missions over Bosnia Thursday. Since the beginning of the operation on April 12, they have flown 387 missions.

The plan is designed to keep Serbian aircraft from bombing Bosnia or ferrying in troops or supplies in helicopters.

Spanish Lieutenant Protects Fleeing Croats

AU2604104993 Paris AFP in English 1023 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Hugh Nevill report]

[Text] Sarajevo, April 26 (AFP)—A Spanish U.N. lieutenant—"a real hero"—stood his ground Sunday when fleeing Croat villagers took refuge under his armoured car from pursuing Moslem militiamen, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported Monday.

The lieutenant's name was not immediately available.

UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer said the junior officer was commanding a platoon of armoured personnel cars patrolling in central Bosnia-Herzegovina—where recent fighting has opposed the mainly Moslem Bosnian army to Roman Catholic Croat HVO forces, when he was confronted by some 200 fleeing Croat civilians accompanied by 60 Croat soldiers.

"They were moving out of the area, (1.5 kilometres (a mile) east of Ostrozac, a village 20 kilometres (12 miles) south-southwest of Konjic) fleeing from the 'armija' soldiers," Commander Frewer said.

"The armija, we understand, is the Bosnian Moslem local militias—they're armed civilians—who were pursuing this group of refugees and HVO soldiers.

"This group of HVO soldiers and refugees surrounded the Spanish platoon, asking for protection.

"Many of the civilians tried to get under the vehicles, claiming that they were being pursued by the armija.

"The Moslem militia arrived and fired a number of shots in the air, claiming the HVO soldiers should surrender and directing the platoon leader to withdraw from the area."

Frewer said he had no immediate information on how many armija soldiers arrived, but his account indicated a large number, as they overpowered the 60 Croat soldiers.

"The platoon leader held his ground," Frewer said, and replied that any attack on civilians who had sought U.N. protection would be considered "an attack on the international community by virtue of the Spanish holding the U.N. flag in that area."

The HVO soldiers eventually gave up their weapons to the armija after which the Moslems withdrew, leaving a small guard in the area.

The Spanish Battalion headquarters then deployed a further platoon of three vehicles—about 30 extra Spanish soldiers—to the area, where they subsequently negotiated that the refugees be allowed to continue on their way.

Bosnian government officials sent five buses to the confrontation point to take the refugees farther south, Frewer said.

"The refugees were then stopped again by armija soldiers at a checkpoint and were not allowed to go any further.

"Last night, the refugees were put up in two towns—Celebic and Ostrozac.

"They were protected by one platoon of the Spanish UNPROFOR soldiers.

"They were also provided with food, water and medical aid."

Frewer, who described the Spanish lieutenant as "a real hero," said a joint commission was meeting Monday to negotiate the refugees' safe passage out of the area.

He said the fate of the HVO soldiers was not known in Sarajevo.

UNSC Delegation 'Appalled' at Croatian Atrocities

LD2504154593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1456 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Zvornik, April 25 (TANJUG)—A United Nations Security Council [UNSC] delegation, which on Friday arrived in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on Sunday left Zvornik, a town on the River Drina, for Srebrenica in Eastern Bosnia.

Earlier in the day, the delegation visited Tuzla (North-Eastern Bosnia).

On Saturday [24 April], the six ambassadors for the first time personally witnessed the tragic reality of ethnic cleansing when British soldiers serving in the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) took them to the village of Ahnici near Vitez, whose inhabitants had been massacred and houses burnt down by Croats, reported news agencies.

Following months-old stories about ethnic cleansing, of which the United Nations has accused exclusively the Serb side and punished it, the U.N. ambassadors were appalled at the sight of charred bodies of Moslems massacred by Croats.

We knew these things were happening, we read about it in the papers but it was shocking to see it, said New Zealand's Ambassador to the U.N. Terence O'Brien.

"This gives us elements for deep consideration about what should be the role of the United Nations in this part of the world," said O'Brien.

The delegation includes also diplomats from Hungary, Russia, Venezuela, France and Pakistan.

Before returning to New York, the delegation is planning to meet with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Monday, says the French news agency AFP.

The ambassadors are also expected to meet with Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

The U.N. Security Council will not take any new steps in connection with the crisis in Bosnia before the six-member mission has returned to New York, a spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general said on Friday.

Izetbegovic on 'Tough Talks' With Croatian Leaders

LD2504212293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] President Alija Izetbegovic of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency returned to Sarajevo from Zagreb this evening. He made the following statement for Bosnia-Herzegovina radio-television in connection with the agreement signed in Zagreb.

[Begin recording] This morning we signed an agreement on a cease-fire and the formation of joint commands. One clause also says that it is not in the interest of either the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army or the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] to wage war against each other. Of course, no one in his right mind wants to wage war on two fronts, and we here need this less than anyone else. This was a big motive to attend the talks and try to do something in order to halt this absurd conflict.

On the other hand, even if it was not for this—let me call it—strategic reason, this hatred which is [word indistinct] being created is completely unnatural. Unnatural hatred. Unnatural love is ugly, and unnatural hatred even more.

We therefore signed the cease-fire, and of course the question arises of whether it will be of any use. We

reached a cease-fire once before, but it seems that it did not work. I think, I expect this time .... [sentence unfinished as heard] I am more of an optimist primarily because the signing of the agreement was preceded by very frank, at times very hard, sometimes even tough talks, negotiations. Tough talks, tough stands by both sides; as people say: poke in the eye. We all said to each other what we thought about one another.

We, of course, reproached them that they signed the Vance-Owen plan insincerely, and then they go back to Croatia and create a state within a state in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They reproached us that we are ungrateful because, as they say, they are fighting for Bosnia-Herzegovina, and are at the same time each carrying a Muslim on their back. We said that this was not true and that there are not 400,000 refugees, but 200,000 and that the refugees receive assistance from abroad.

I told Mr. Tudjman that he cannot at the same time advocate a confederate Bosnia and sign the Vance-Owen plan. The president should choose one of the two and tell us what he wants.

Eventually, these rather unpleasant, at times tough talks went on for almost three hours. Because of the wisdom and experience of Mr. Owen, Lord Owen, after the talks we finally sat down and tried to make a deal. The deal was made, which is interesting, in a completely different atmosphere, in the spirit of friendship. Probably because we both let our bitterness out, the bitterness which is fully justified after everything that has happened here. But our motive was not to let this repeat. Of course, the fear of reoccurrence exists and it is realistic.

We therefore agreed to form joint commands. We were represented by a strong team. I was accompanied by [Ejup] Ganic [Muslim member of the Bosnian Presidency]; Sefer Halilovic, chief of the general staff; Professor Trnka, for legal issues; and our two ambassadors—our ambassador in Zagreb, Mrs. [Bisera] Turkovic; and our ambassador in the UN, Mr. [Muhamed] Sacirbej, who arrived here with the ambassadors from nonaligned countries, I mean, non permanent members of the Security Council, who have just visited Bosnia-Herzegovina and, as far as I know, visited Vitez and Srebrenica today. They visited Vitez yesterday and Srebrenica today.

Therefore, with this team, we managed to reach a rather balanced document, which ends with the conclusion that responsibility of those who started the latest round of clashes in central Bosnia will be investigated. An international commission will be formed to do this; we asked Mr. Owen to help us with it. People will be singled out by their names, and it will be established whether war crimes have been committed, and if so, it will be demanded that the responsible people are proclaimed war criminals and are tried for what they did.

The agreement ends with another notion to the effect that mutual accusations, which are turning into a media war, should stop. With all consequences [words indistinct].

This is more or less the result of the visit and of the agreement, which is only to be realized in the field. I think, as far as I have been informed by the first reports from Mostar, tension has defused considerably there. Tension there had reached a critical point, it was on the verge of a conflict. I am not sure that things have definitely calmed down around Jablanica and Konjic. There have been signs of calming in Travnik and around Vitez.

Therefore, we will do everything we can in order to implement the agreement, to restore peace. We, of course, expect the roads—which have been closed due to the clashes even for humanitarian aid and for all other goods which we need—to be reopened.

I say: Let us hope for better days. Of course, everything does not depend on us, but on the other side. We have ascribed to them utmost insincerity in relations so far. We hope that this will change in the future.

Thank you. [end recording]

'Fierce' Infantry Clashes Between Muslims, HVO

LD2504130793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1145 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Apr (TANJUG)—In the area of the Croat village of Lepenica and the Muslim village of Kacun, near Kiseljak, fierce infantry clashes are in progress between the Muslim Army and Croatian Defense Council [HVO], SRNA reports, citing Muslim Radio Visoko. The radio report accuses the HVO members of trying to carry out the ethnic cleansing of Muslims in the Kiseljak area so as to impose Croat control.

Radio Visoko said that it is bewildered by the silence of the Sarajevo media and attempts to minimize the level of fighting in central Bosnia, warning that "by joint command in this area the HVO means the subordination of the Bosnian Army to the HVO units, and the use of only Croat symbols," SRNA reports.

HVO Admits Individuals, Groups 'Out of Control'

LD2504182093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Following a tour of Croatian Defense Council [HVO] units and on the basis of reports from the field, the HVO main headquarters announced today that it has established that certain lower-ranking officers and their units are acting and behaving against orders, that they base decisions on their own assessments, that they plan and execute their own private actions, that there have

been cases when civilians were treated in a way contradictory to the decrees of the international humanitarian law and the UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] were impeded in their activity.

According to the statement, the HVO main headquarters has therefore adopted measures aimed at preventing the arbitrary actions by commanders and individuals in the ranks of the HVO. The main headquarters announces that particularly severe measures will be taken against the most extremist individuals and groups that have gone out of control and are maltreating civilians and burning and destroying civilian facilities, and whose (?activity) is none other than terrorism. The statement goes on to say that the main headquarters demands that HVO members who impede the activities of UNPROFOR, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and other international bodies should be most resolutely prevented from continuing such activities.

HVO Orders Defense, Halt to Attacks on Army

LD2504220493 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Bruno Stojic, head of the defense department of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna, and Major General Milivoj Petkovic, chief of the HVO general staff, again issued a joint order this evening, as follows: Stop all offensive actions against units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army at the current defense line positions; do not respond to provocations; and in the event of an attack, take all measures to protect civilians and soldiers and repel the attack immediately and resolutely with all available weapons.

Zenica Comes Under HVO Artillery Attack

LD2404215293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Mujo Delibegovic from Zenica]

[Excerpt] Zenica and its inhabitants were the target of the perfidious activities of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] artillery once again today. At 1400, the HVO artillery shelled the city again. This definitely confirms the HVO's intentions and its strategy of establishing a state in which human life has no value, the press center of the Third Corps of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army said in its second bulletin today. The press center said that the HVO resumed its attacks against towns and villages as well as against the units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army in central Bosnia despite the cease-fire agreement.

According to the latest report from Vitez, received by the press center of the Third Corps, the day was relatively quiet. After this morning's fierce clashes in the villages around Vitez there was a lull from 0900 until 1800 when we received the second report from the Third corps press center. However, two innocent civilians were wounded in sudden HVO artillery bursts on the old town in Vitez controlled by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army.

This is once again proof of the HVO attitude toward the cease-fire agreement, not to mention hundreds of sniper bullets fired on the town today. The situation in the old town of Vitez remains very difficult, in particular because of the total traffic and information blockade.

During the afternoon the information service of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army in Travnik reported a stalemate in relations with the HVO. The HVO units withdrew from the town to the surrounding villages, seizing the dominating hills and digging in. In Travnik and nearby areas Bosnia-Herzegovina Army units are preparing for defense because it is obvious that the HVO is preparing for an attack on the town. [passage omitted]

Muslim Villages Razed Around Lake Jablanica

LD2504202293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1953 GMT 25 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 25 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Croat forces have burnt down Moslem villages on the banks of Lake Jablanica in Herzegovina, Moslem-controlled Sarajevo Radio reported on Sunday evening.

Croatian Army units completely destroyed houses, mosques and graveyards in the village of Sovici near the town of Jablanica. There is no news about the fate of [word indistinct] Moslem villagers.

On Sunday, Croatian forces shelled Jablanica from cannon and anti-aircraft machine-guns, Sarajevo Radio quoted a statement by the local Moslem Army press service.

Zagreb-based Croatian Radio said Moslem units prevented on Sunday the evacuation of 300 Croats from the surrounded village of Radesine near Konjic.

Moslem forces stopped a convoy of buses in Dreznice, a village between Mostar and Jablanica, and sent it back to Mostar despite an agreement on evacuation signed with the Moslem Army under the [word indistinct] of UNPROFOR and European Community monitors, said Croatian Radio.

Muslims Reportedly Seeking Croatian Territory

LD2304174793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] According to the command of the southeast Herzegovina operative zone [Croatian forces], the representatives of the Muslim forces are delaying the implementation of the agreement on the withdrawal of military units in Mostar to their barracks. The excuse of the commanders of some Muslim units is that they have not

received orders for their withdrawal. However, everything is being done to ensure the immediate implementation of the agreement and another joint meeting is in progress. It is a quiet day in Mostar and there is no sniper activity.

However, Sarajevo radio is continuing its propaganda war. The Croatian Defense Council [HVO] defense department energetically denies Sarajevo radio reports about helicopter and Croatian Army attacks on Jablanica. Journalists received a document unmasking the behavior of the Muslim authorities in Zenica. After arresting Vinko Barisic, a Zenica HVO officer, the Muslim military police presented him with the charges, according to which Barisic was accused of being a member of enemy forces.

Jadranko Prlic, president of the HVO of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna, spoke about the latest clashes between the HVO and Muslim forces at a press conference today. He stressed the HVO's standpoint, according to which all disputes must be solved by political means. Prlic said that the aggression against the HVO occurred at a moment when the international public's attention was focusing on Srebrenica. This aggression was blamed on the Croats by exclusively Muslim diplomatic missions of Bosnia-Herzegovina; its goal was to annex parts of Croatian provinces to Muslim provinces, he stated.

Roundup of Fighting Between Croats and Muslims

LD2304194293 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 23 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Vitez: Thirteen mortar shells fell on the very center of the town today. Efforts are indeed being made to settle the situation, but peace is still out of sight, the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] command says.

Muslim forces today also launched a mortar attack on Busovaca and snipers are also active in this town. Unlike reports from previous days, a report came in today about tension in Kakanj. Snipers are operating in the town, while the movement of HVO troops in Kakanj has been banned.

The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] commission today submitted a report about a large number of Croatian villages that have been burned down in Zenica and about Croats expelled and civilians killed in this municipality. The ICRC report also states that all 209 Croat families were expelled from the village of Janjac. All Croatian houses in the village of Kozac were damaged, 240 Croatian homes plundered in Stranjani, eight Croatian houses destroyed and four civilians killed in (Zahdije). Twelve Croatian civilians were killed in the village Zalje. Let me remind you that the above is just a partial report of the ICRC. [passage omitted]

And to conclude this report from Mostar, we are showing for the first time documents offering a possible reply to the question: how did the Croatian-Muslim clashes in Prozor, Jablanica, and Konjic start? This happened as a result of the order issued by Sefer Halilovic's favorite at the time, Zejnel Delalic, commander in Konjic, who—and we stress—on 27 August ordered Muslim troops to abandon their positions on the frontline facing the Chetniks in Prozor and consolidate positions in the town itself and on its approaches. It is now clear why Prozor was the town in which the first clashes erupted and what Zejnel Delalic's soldiers and commanders wanted to achieve.

This is the order of Sefer Halilovic, chief of general staff of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Armed Forces, of 29 January stating that all those in Konjic and Jablanica, who were in favor of cooperation with the HVO of the so-called Herzeg-Bosna, were to be expelled or dismissed. The appointment of Dr. Safet Ciba as president of three municipalities—Konjic, Jablanica, and Prozor—came as a direct result of this order, which is unprecedented in political practice. The consequence of it all are clashes in Gornji Vakuf and the fortifications in the village of Slatina, intended for use against Croats as well as the clashes in Jablanica. [passage omitted]

B-H Defense Minister Condemns Muslim Aggression

LD2404161993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Slavko Rako from Mostar]

[Text] This morning, Muslim forces again mounted strong attacks on Kiseljak, Travnik, Gornji Vakuf, and Busovaca, and 70 Croats were removed from the village Bilalovac near Kiseljak, Veso Vegar, spokesman for the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] Defense Department told a special news conference today. Muslim units are not allowing mixed delegations to enter the conflict zone, and Radio Sarajevo is waging a terrible propaganda war against the HVO and the Croatian nation, Vegar stressed. He reported details from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] according to which Muslim units have killed and massacred 145 members of the HVO and the same fate has been suffered by 270 Croatian civilians. Over 500 Croats are imprisoned in Zenica under threat of liquidation.

Bozo Rajic, defense minister in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government, also spoke at the news conference. The Bosnia-Herzegovina defense minister has no authority or jurisdiction over the units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. These have been taken away from him by Alija Izetbegovic and Sefer Halilovic, Bozo Rajic stressed, adding that not a single office in the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina exists. There is a Muslim government, he said, in which there are private Croats and private Serbs [as heard]. According to him, it cannot be said that individual units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, that is the Muslim forces, have broken away, rather a deliberate plan is being implemented, behind which stand Sefer Halilovic and Alija

Izetbegovic. Sefer Halilovic has not made a single move without the knowledge and instructions of Alija Izetbegovic, who has hitherto taken cover behind extremists, but it is now clear that there is a demand for the creation of a Muslim state, Rajic said.

Speaking about the discussions with Ejup Ganic and Sefer Halilovic in Herzegovina, Bozo Rajic stressed that Ganic wants to preserve the status quo with the help of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR], while Halilovic himself admitted that a few trucks of arms allowed through to Srebrenica were left in Visoko.

It is undeniable that the Muslim units began the aggression and valid proof and documents to this effect exist at their commands, and as for Alija Izetbegovic's signature on the Vance-Owen plan, Rajic said that it is a bluff and that instead of implementing it Izetbegovic has launched an aggression against the Croatian nation.

One of the possibilities for a solution is for units to withdraw to barracks and to the defense line toward the Chetniks and that the politicians should sit down at the negotiating table, Bozo Rajic, defense minister in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government, said.

HVO Releases Details of Muslim Attacks, Massacres

LD2504122693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Slavko Rako report from Mostar]

[Text] The Croatian Defense Council [HVO] defense department's latest reports show how the Muslim forces have been respecting the cease-fire agreement signed during the night. The 301st Motorized Zenica Brigade, the 309th Konjic Brigade, the 305th Jajce Brigade, the 307th Mojahedin Brigade and the 303d Busovaca Muslim Brigade launched an attack on Busovaca this morning, using all available means including tanks. Five HVO soldiers were killed and 10 wounded according to incomplete reports, but there are fears that this number will be higher. The HVO defense department said that one HVO soldier had his throat slit by the mojahedin troops.

In Vitez, Muslim tanks are shelling civilian targets. One tank was destroyed by the defenders. The notorious Muslim commander from the area of the Konjic municipality stated that he does not know of any cease-fire agreements and that he does not care for Alija [Izetbegovic] and Sefer [Bosnian Chief of General Staff Halilovic], and that business continues as usual in this area. The HVO defense department gave details of what this kind of business entailed. In the villages of Radesine, Zaslivlje, Turija and Zabrdje, the Muslim forces have encircled around 2,000 Croat civilians, mainly women and children, who are running out of food supplies. The right bank of the Neretva River in Konjic has been ethnically cleansed. Around 500 Croat civilians, HVO officers, Catholic priests and nuns are being held captive in the town.

The Muslim forces are again using civilians as a human shield in their latest attacks against Croats. Around 300 civilians are held in a tower block in Konjic. Muslim machine-guns and snipers are targeting the HVO positions from the roof of this tower block. Muslim snipers are also shooting from the roof of the local health center.

There have been massacres of dozens of civilians in the villages of Podorasac and Ovcari. According to the HVO defense department Zuka's special units and foreign mercenaries chant to the glory of Allah as they attack, and they boast that they have established the free territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Muslims Massacre, Torture Konjic Area Villagers

LD2304122093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Muslim units have massacred villagers in the Konjic municipality in northern Herzegovina in the past few days, the information office of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] of the Croat Community of Herceg-Bosna reports.

The crime committed in the village of Trusina is particularly tragic. Units of the Herceg Stjepan Brigade discovered bodies of 26 brutally murdered people, including women and children, in the village. A small number of survivors, the HVO information office says, described horrendous tortures of the local people.

Because of communication problems, villages in northern Herzegovina, the HVO goes on to say, are not easily accessible to journalists, the UN Protection Force, or EC and Red Cross observers, hence the world public is not aware of these massacres.

Muslim-Croat Clashes Continue Despite Cease-Fire

LD2504180693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1746 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 25 (TANJUG)—Fierce fighting between the Bosnia Moslems and Croats continued on Sunday in central Bosnia and northern Herzegovina despite the ceasefire agreement signed on Saturday evening in Zagreb by their representatives, Croatian and Moslem media reported.

Zagreb-based Croatian radio said on Sunday morning that six Moslem brigades were using all weaponry, including tanks, to attack Busovaca (central Bosnia) and that the fighting killed at least five and wounded ten Croatian soldiers.

A Bosnian Croat soldier was butchered by the Mujaheddin, the radio said.

The Moslems have also butchered dozens of civilian Croats in the villages of Podorosac and Ovcari, close to the Herzegovina town of Konjic, the radio added.

It said that the Moslem fmrces are keeping prisoner some 300 civilians in an apartment building in Konjic and are opening machinegun and sniper fire from the top of this building and the health centre on Croatian positions. The part of Konjic on the right bank of the Neretva river, which was seized by the Moslems a few days ago, is now ethnically clean, while about 500 Croatian civilians remain trapped in the town, the Croatian radio said.

The radio said that Mujaheddin from Islamic countries are fighting along the Bosnia Moslems and added that the Moslem troops on Sunday opened machinegun and sniper fire mn the Croatian villages near the town of Jablanica, Herzegovina.

According to the radio, Moslems are using tanks against apartment buildings in Vitez, central Bosnia.

The local radio station from Moslem-controlled Visoko, central Bosnia, reported that fierce infantry Moslem-Croat battles took place throughout Saturday night and on Sunday morning in the region of Kiseljak.

Moslem radio, monitored by the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA, accused the Bosnia Croats of "carrying out ethnic cleansing of Moslems in the region of Kiseljak." Croatian radio, however, said on Sunday that "in occupied Travnik (central Bosnia) the Moslems continue brutally terrorizing the Croatian population" and warned that the Bosnian Croat forces "will not wait much longer to recapture their territories."

The same source said that the clashes in the region between Travnik and neighbouring Novi Travnik are continuing "because the Moslem expansion is still going on."

In the Croat-held towns of Livno and Tomislavgrad (Herzegovina) heavy Croat-Moslem fighting continues, Bosnia Serb military sources said and added that a part of the Moslem population from this region wants to leave for the Serb side.

Muslim-Croat Clashes Escalate in Jablanica, Kiseljak

LD2404131493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1245 GMT 24 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 24 (TANJUG)—Three Moslem troops were wounded in an attempt by Bosnian Croat units to break through the Moslem positions round the Herzegovina town of Jablanica, Moslem-controlled Sarajevo Radio said on Saturday.

The Bosnian Croat Army suffered many casualties in its unsuccessful attack, the radio added.

The same source said that Croats continued opening fire at civilian targets in Moslem-controlled Jablanica and the nearby Moslem villages.

The radio warned that Croats did not allow members of international humanitarian organizations and European monitors access to the region.

Croat Forces launched artillery attacks at Moslem positions in Jablanica and the surrounding villages all day Friday, Sarajevo Radio said on Friday night.

The same source said that Croats were plundering and burning Moslem houses around Jablanica, most fiercely in the village of Covici, where even mosques were demolished and the Moslem graveyard levelled with dredges.

Croat Forces on Friday launched all-out attacks in the central Bosnian region of Kiseljak, Sarajevo Radio said on Friday night. The Moslem villages in the region are on fire and the population is terrorized, the radio said.

British media are full of reports of clashes between Moslems and Croats in central Bosnia and on mutual bestialities by the two in the war against Bosnian Serbs [words indistinct].

Their attention focuses on the reports of massacres by Croat units of the Moslem population around the town of Vitez in central Bosnia. Commander of the British 'blue helmets' in Bosnia, Colonel Stuart gave the ITV [Independent Television] a statement which is extremely unusual for a British professional soldier, that the slaughter was done by swine who should be caught as soon as possible.

According to British reports, in one village, alone, the Croat Forces slaughtered and burned over 400 women, children and old people, which is the largest massacre so far in the gory civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she would express her protest against "such barbarity" by not making her planned visit to Croatia.

Muslims Plan Attack on UN Forces in Srebrenica

LD2404123993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1122 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Apr (TANJUG)—A source close to military circles has reported that Muslims are planning to attack UN forces in Srebrenica and have the Serbs blamed for it.

Representatives of the public information bodies, especially those from the most influential world media, are already expecting this to happen and are ready to take direct part in falsifying yet another war document.

The goal of the latest military and media operation is to push into the background the latest clashes between Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia and step up the

demonization of Serbs to such a level as to make NATO's military intervention inevitable.

Muslim Forces Prepared for Combat Near Srebrenica

LD2304143093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The press center of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army has issued a statement saying that the defense lines of the free territory of Srebrenica remained firm and stable. The agreement on the demilitarization of the town has had no effect whatsoever on the stability and strength of the defense lines and there is no reason to fear that the Chetniks could enter Srebrenica once the demilitarization process is completed. The army's press center wishes to remind the public that the agreement on the demilitarization of Srebrenica applies to the town exclusively and not to the entire free territory, which is much larger than the territory of the town itself.

The military leadership of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army—acting with the full authorization of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency as its supreme command—had entered into talks on demilitarization with the aim of establishing a just peace, the protection of civilians in Srebrenica and ensuring their survival in their own homes. It is nothing else but unsubstantiated insinuation that the talks about Srebrenica are an introduction to the surrender of this town to Chetniks. The situation is the exact reverse—as confirmed by the latest statements of Morillon and Wahlgren that Srebrenica will be defended by all available means.

The demilitarization agreement is in favor of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and Srebrenica's civilian population. There is an exceptionally small number of Bosnian Army members in the town who, given the communications blockade and the present arms embargo, only had poor quality arms at their disposal. The best weapons are in the hands of the defenders of the free territory on defense lines outside the town.

About 500 guns and other weapons, that is as many as there were in the town, have been surrendered to the Canadian battalion. A UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] spokesman for the press confirmed that the same number of guns and other weapons were handed over to the Canadian battalion. The figure of 50,000 guns, which appeared in the information media, results from the wrong interpretation of the UNPROFOR press spokesman's words. For this reason there is no cause for concern.

The free territory of Srebrenica—from the day the demilitarization agreement was signed—has not once been called into question. A guarantee that the situation will not change, and that the people of Srebrenica will not leave their ancestral homes, is provided by the fighters of the Bosnian Army who, with their modern weapons and high combat morale are positioned outside the area of the demilitarizated town zone protecting and defending their own people, their town and the free territory of Srebrenica.

Observance of Cease-Fire in Srebrenica

LD2404125993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1229 GMT 24 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Bratunac, April 24 (TANJUG)—The cease-fire in the eastern Bosnian Moslem enclave of Srebrenica, which took effect on April 18, [words indistinct] morning was observed in the night of April 23-24, TANJUG learned from Serb military sources.

The Serb side has suspended all combat action and strictly observes the agreement on the demilitarization of Srebrenica, not because it fears anyone, but because it wants peace, sources close to the Bosnian Serb Army command said.

During the Friday talks in Bratunac, a Serb town in eastern Bosnia, representatives of the Bosnian Serb Army asked the Canadian U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops stationed in Srebrenica to prevent further Moslem provocations against Serbs.

Serbs will not attack Srebrenica, but will respond to any provocations in the area [words indistinct], of which it will inform the Canadian unit beforehand, the sources said. Although the Serb side has completely and in due time fulfilled its part of the agreement on the demilitarization of Srebrenica, the members of Moslem formations continue fortifying their positions and the Canadians are not preventing them.

According to reliable data which the Serb side has submitted to UNPROFOR, Moslems in the Srebrenica region have not turned in large quantities of arms, so the demilitarization has not made much headway, although some of the high UNPROFOR officials said it was over.

The Canadian UNPROFOR unit has promised to continue the demilitarization and complete it as soon as possible.

There are no Moslem soldiers in Srebrenica as they fled to the surrounding forests with all their weaponry, as UNPROFOR, too, has confirmed.

Serbs, UNPROFOR Discuss Srebrenica Demilitarization

LD2304130193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1101 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Bratunac, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—In the course of negotiations in Bratunac today between officers of the army of the Serb republic and representatives of the Canadian UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] unit

deployed in Srebrenica, it was confirmed that demilitarization had not been carried out fully in either the town or the surrounding area.

The Serb side told the Canadians that it had completely and timely fulfilled all its obligations with regard to the demilitarization agreement—unlike the Muslims and the UNPROFOR. It was reiterated that the Muslims had surrendered a symbolic amount of infantry weapons, mainly outdated and faulty.

The Serb side handed over to Canadian Colonel Thomas Geburth a military map with precisely drawn up deployments of Muslim armed formations on the territory of Srebrenica, the number of people and sorts of weapons used, which he assessed as an important contribution to the implementation of the agreement on demilitarization of the Srebrenica area.

The UNPROFOR representative was also given a detailed list of weapons used by Muslims in Srebrenica itself, which clearly shows that demilitarization is still in its infancy. The list enumerates 10,000 guns, 324 antiaircraft machine-guns and machine-guns of different calibers, 180 mortar launchers, 18 antiaircraft guns, three tanks, three self-propelled artillery pieces, four armored personnel carriers, and three "Praga."

In the course of the talks the Canadian colonel indirectly confirmed that demilitarization, even of Srebrenica itself, is only in its infancy, but, according to him, the cease-fire has so far been observed.

The commander of the Canadian unit told the Serb side that his tasks are first to demilitarize Srebrenica itself and the entire region, and to restore peace. He added that he wished this to happen as soon as possible—a wish shared by the Serb side.

However, representatives of the army of the Serb republic asked the Canadians to halt Muslim provocations and also to prevent them from approaching Serb positions. The UNPROFOR representatives were warned that the Serb side will not open fire on Srebrenica, but if members of the Muslim formations continue with provocations an adequate reaction will follow from the Serb side, about which UNPROFOR will be informed.

The Serb side in Bratunac has established daily contact with UNPROFOR with the view of cooperating more effectively, which has so far been maintained successfully.

UN Delegation Visits Srebrenica; Wounded Evacuated

AU2504200793 Paris AFP in English 2003 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, April 25 (AFP)—French and British helicopters Sunday [25 April] dropped off a U.N. delegation in Srebrenica and then airlifted 161 wounded residents out of the besieged eastern Bosnian enclave.

Srebrenica, cut-off by surrounding Serb forces, "is an open jail," said Venezuela Ambassador Diego Arria upon his return to Tuzla from the enclave.

Arria is heading a U.N. Security Council group made up of representatives of France, Russia, Pakistan, New Zealand and Hungary.

The U.N. mission spent the day Sunday inspecting and talking to residents of Srebrenica, a mostly Moslem town which has swollen by at least 30,000 refugees since Serb fighters mounted an offensive here last year.

"This is a test of the willingness of the international community to react or not," Arria said.

The Security Council passed a resolution in mid-April designating a safety zone around Srebrenica that is four kilometers (2.5 miles) long and 1.5 kilometers (one mile) wide. In principal, this area which borders Serbia, has been demilitarized.

But a year of fighting and living in overcrowded conditions has taken its toll, international doctors reporting that the health of Srebrenica's swarming population is deteriorating rapidly.

Water is dirty, scarce and barely safe to drink. Each person is rationed to three liters (6 pints) of water a day, instead of the minimun 20 liters needed daily to avoid an epidemic, doctors said.

"Srebrenica has become a health bomb," said Jacques de Milliano, an official with the Dutch branch of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, or Doctors Without Borders).

The lack of water is a factor behind the spread of diarrhea, especially among children, he said. The illness can become fatal within 48 hours if not treated, De Milliano warned. However, to his knowledge no-one had yet died of the sickness, he said.

Last week's ceasefire allowed helicopters to airlift more than 500 wounded and sick from Srebrenica and fly in 145 Canadian U.N. peacekeepers.

Since then, the situation in Srebrenica has become "a little better, even if it is still intolerable," said Jose Maria Mendiluce, a special representative in Yugoslavia for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"The most serious problem is drinking water which has been cut off for ten days," said Mendiluce who accompanied the U.N. delegation.

The Moslem authorities in Srebrenica are no longer permitting the evacuation of sick refugees on empty aid trucks because they do not want to contribute to the Serb policy of "ethnic cleansing," a relief official said Sunday.

They say the international community cannot guarantee the safe return of Srebrenica's refugees. Under Vance-Owen peace plan this eastern Bosnian zone was to have been a Moslem-controlled area.

Serbs were now refusing to allow foreign medical teams into Srebrenica, said De Milliano who accused both sides of using the sick and wounded as pawns in the war.

"After the military fighting around Srebrenica, the two parties are waging a humanitarian fight, using illness as a weapon," De Milliano said.

The Serbs were stepping up the pressure to evacuate Srebrenica by allowing the possibility of an epidemic to develop, De Milliano said. The Moslems were applying pressure on the international community by not permitting Srebrenica's inhabitants to leave, he added.

Serbs also stopped journalists from accompanying the U.N. delegation into Srebrenica, blocking them in Zvornik, a Bosnian town they control.

Nine-Truck UN Convoy Begins Journey to Srebrenica

LD2304210193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2001 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Bratunac, April 23 (TANJUG)—A nine-truck convoy of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carrying humanitarian aid on Friday afternoon left Bratunac, taking the left bank of the Drina River, and headed for Srebrenica, a Moslem enclave under the U.N. protection in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For the past year, the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina has been the scene of a brutal civil and religious war between local Moslems, Serbs and Croats.

Before leaving for Bratunac, the trucks were inspected by Bosnian Serbs at the checkpoint in Zvornik on the border with Yugoslavia. Bosnian Serb soldiers found that one of the trucks was carrying tents, which are classified as military equipment. The truck was returned to the right bank of the Drina River, i.e. Yugoslavia.

The rest of the convoy proceeded towards Srebrenica and crossed the Serb-controlled territory without any problems.

Serbs Confiscate Supplies From Srebrenica Aid Convoy

AU2304132293 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Geneva, April 23 (AFP)—A United Nations relief convoy arrived in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica Friday [23 April] while another convoy was trying to reach the central Bosnian town of Zenica, a UNHCR spokeswoman here said.

The 10-truck convoy for Srebrenica left Belgrade Friday morning and was stopped at the Serb border town of Zvornik where troops confiscated 96 tents with portable heaters from one truck.

Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Belgrade, said the Serbs took the equipment on the pretext that it could be used for military purposes.

She said the tents and heaters were earmarked for refugees who have had to live in the street under tough weather conditions in Srebrenica.

Meanwhile Sylvana Foa, a UNHCR spokeswoman in Geneva, said a 17-truck convoy headed to Zenica under escort by Dutch U.N. troops, but warned heavy fighting in the region might prevent it reaching its destination.

Foa said the convoy that arrived in Srebrenica was not expected to evacuate any of the town's civilians who no longer feel threatened by the Serbs since U.N. forces arrived there on Sunday.

"They obviously want to stick around at least until next spring," she said, citing reports she has received from U.N. representatives in Srebrenica. "The mood has changed, people are smiling.

"They don't look at trucks anymore," she added. "They feel safe with the presence of U.N. Protection Force personnel." [passage omitted]

Foa added, however, that the enclave remained overpopulated and that sanitary conditions were poor with water in short supply.

She said the majority of the population, which mushroomed when refugees fled other enclaves into Srebrenica, was infested with lice and scabies and an typus epidemic was feared. [passage omitted]

Tudjman on Meetings With Clinton, Gore

LD2304112793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 23 Apr 93

[News conference by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman upon his return from the United States at Zagreb airport with unidentified reporters on 23 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Tudjman] This was a very tiring but important week. [passage omitted] The meetings with President Clinton and Vice President Gore were clearly the pinnacle of our visit and the most important meetings for Croatia At these two separate meetings with President Clinton yesterday and the day before, and then with Vice President Gore, we had talks, clearly, about major problems facing Croatia and about the most pressing problem in today's world, the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I must stress here that all interlocutors, especially Vice President Gore and President Clinton, expressed their grave concern about the Muslim-Croat clashes of the past few days because, with the steps that the international community has taken so far to curb the Serb aggression, these clashes introduce new elements, complicate the situation, and are unacceptable to the international community, just as they are unacceptable to us, Croatia.

I told my interlocutors that in my capacity as Croatian president I condemn these conflicts and that, on our part, we will heed the call to do everything, to use all our influence, to end these conflicts between Muslims and Croats there, and to call to account the perpetrators of crimes, regardless of whose side they are on.

Of course, this was part of the general talks on ways to curb the Serb aggression and on finding solutions which could bring about peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina and former Yugoslavia. But Serbian propaganda knows how to use these conflicts and how to mobilize the world community on these issues.

All in all, the talks with top U.S. officials and with numerous leads of European and world states who were there at the time were very beneficial. This will be reflected in our future relations.

[Reporter] Mr. President, during your first visit Mr. Clinton and Mr. Al Gore were in the middle of the presidentia campaign and were looking very favorably toward Croatia, promising concrete [word indistinct]. Could you tell me now, [words indistinct], how much they still adhere to the view that the situation in former Yugoslavia should be resolved by more concrete and forceful steps, and have you promised or said something....

[Tudjman, interrupting] I do not remember whether it was you or someone else who asked me then what I expected from the new U.S. Administration of President Clinton. I answered—if you remember and as far as I can remember—that no significant changes in U.S. policy could be expected. After all, the United States is not just a powerful but the most powerful world power. In essence, it does not pursue just personal and party interests but its long- term interests.

Still, the United States has become more involved in the process of resolving the crisis in former Yugoslavia since President Clinton and his administration came into power. It is more involved politically and diplomatically. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. President, allow me to ask an additional question. Camp David was mentioned as a possible site for a new agreement to halt the crisis on the territory of former Yugoslavia. What do you think about this?

[Tudjman] It was not just mentioned; I myself proposed something similar in a letter to President Clinton after his inauguration. I have now further developed that proposal of mine.

It does not have to be made at Camp David. Since all previous attempts—meetings within the framework of the conference [on former Yugoslavia] and all previous efforts—have not yielded results, and since political and military solutions are still being discussed, I have suggested that it would be effective if President Clinton were to invite all the warring sides, primarily those in Bosnia-Herzegovina but also those in former Yugoslavia; these problems are interconnected, and we in Croatia cannot resolve problems regarding the United Nations Protected Areas and the normalization of relations on the entire Croatian territory without a solution to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I have therefore proposed that President Clinton invite representatives of all sides and to involve President Yeltsin, the head of Russia, in this initiative because of Russia's influence on Serbia. This would perhaps not just find a solution but—let me put it this way—it would impose a peace on all warring sides.

Then the international community would have a much clearer idea as to whether to launch a military intervention. A military intervention would also be more acceptable to those factors and circles opposing a military intervention if a peaceful solution were not found at the top level. I can say that both Vice President Gore and President Clinton listened to my proposals and said they would consider them.

Tudjman Responds to Foreign Criticism

AU2604111393 Belgrade VREME in Serbo-Croatian 19 Apr 93 pp 34, 35

[Interview with Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, by Leon Davico in Zagreb; date not given: "Agreement on Pacifying the Extremists"]

[Text] *In the presidential palace, Dr. Franjo Tudjman gave an interview to VREME.*

[Davico] The Geneva talks between you, Mr. President, and the presidents of the FRY and Serbia, were held with an air of optimism. What happened in the meantime?

[Tudjman] We agreed that the war should be terminated, and that the normalization of relations is a precondition for further general consideration of how to achieve peace in this part of Europe and the Balkans. We agreed that the extremists from both sides should be pacified, that they will have to lay down their arms, and that the voluntary migration of people should be consented to. We even agreed to form an interstate board, however, all that was agreed during the government of Milan Panic. What happened thereafter? The Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina continued, and—let us be realistic—also against Croatia. We would not have had the uprising by the Serbs in Croatia if that uprising had not been supported by Belgrade, which has been providing Krajina Serbs with weapons, and other equipment, sending Seselj's and Arkan's volunteers there, and even conscript soldiers. They took from Geneva our plan for the normalization of relations, and we expected their counter-proposals. We are ready for negotiations, but we are waiting for an initiative from Belgrade.

[Davico] What would be a solution to the Krajina problem, as you see it?

[Tudjman] We demand that Serbs recognize the Croatian state, while we offer them all civil rights, as well as the rights of an ethnic community, according to the highest European and world standards. In accordance with the European Conference on former Yugoslavia, and in accordance with the Badinter Commission, we passed a constitutional law, stating that in the regions where Serbs had the majority, that is, in the counties of Knin and Glina, they will have complete autonomy. Let them lay down their arms, let them recognize sovereign Croatia, let them elect their authorities—even now we have Serbs in the Parliament and Government, we have them also in the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court—and let them enter the Chamber of Counties.

[Davico] How do you assess the present moment in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Tudjman] Even before it came to this horrible war in both Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, I had openly talked in Split with Milosevic, as well as with Izetbegovic, both in private with each of them, and together. I said that the only way for Bosnia-Herzegovina to survive was a confederation, acceptable for all three peoples, which had to be constituent peoples. They did not understand my words.

In the talks with the highest statesmen, not only within the European, or the World Conference on the former Yugoslavia, I said that there were two problems. The first problem was to stop the Serbian aggression. At the beginning, it aimed at the annexation of the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina to greater Serbia, and only later at seizing large territories. The second problem was to make the Muslims accept negotiations and political solutions that were also acceptable for other sides. We are still at a dead end, except that there is the additional question of whether it is still possible for all three peoples to co-exist, after all the horrors that have happened there.

[Davico] The Croatian authorities have also been criticized by representatives of the international community, such as Mr. Mazowiecki. They claim that Serbs have difficulties in obtaining their citizenship certificates. Besides, Mr. Cicak [Croatian journalist] also said in his interview to a Belgian newspaper, that Croatia had its own way of carrying out ethnic cleansing....

[Tudjman] My dear gentleman! The aggression, first by the Yugoslav-communist army, and then by Chetniks, against the Croatian authorities took place on Croatian territory, and resulted in 300,000 Croatian citizens being displaced, and in one-fourth of Croatian territory being totally devastated. In World War II, and we know what it was like, it was formidable, only two Croatian villages—Boricevac and Spanovac—were completely devastated, while in this war 350 settlements were completely devastated, as well as 800 churches and cultural monuments. Therefore, given such circumstances, it is clear that it was very difficult to restrain the rage of the Croatian people, and not only their rage, because in those regions, which are now under the control of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], lived also Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, and many others. Clearly, it was difficult to calm people, and we did our best to prevent individual violations of laws, and violence in general. Besides, we hold the attitude that all those Serbs who are entitled to Croatian citizenship according to the general regulations must be given both the Croatian passport and the citizenship certificate, and that families must not be separated. It is true that in such a general atmosphere there are cases of Serbs having left Croatia (although not to the extent it has been rumored), as well as some unpleasant cases of people who, having lost family members, or having been expelled, started to pull down the Serbian summer-residences. We tried to prevent such occurrences, and we shall continue to do so, endeavoring to establish a lawful state. As for statements such as that of Cicak, those are the attitudes of people who have never become reconciled with the idea of sovereign Croatia, or who are against a democratic system, which was created in Croatia through three, or even four free elections. Those are the people who would prefer some other authorities, or even to see themselves in power.

[Davico] Croatia has been accused of having no freedom of the press. The latest example is SLOBODNA DALMACIJA with its new management board.

[Tudjman] There are several newspapers owned by individuals. Who writes that Croatia has no freedom of the press? The people who were the main representatives of the collapsed communist system. They are using democracy to write about it. I do not believe that our press freedom is flawless, because the freedom is also the result of objective circumstances. Thanks to the stability of our

democratic system, they can write, even ridicule the state president in satirical theater, they can actually associate as they wish. I think it is hard to find a country in a state of war with such press freedom as there is in Croatia.

[Davico] How do you feel about the initiatives to abolish the Square of Victims of Fascism in Zagreb, and that a street should be given the name of Mile Budak, who was a novelist, yet made his place in history as a racist?

[Tudjman] First of all, we were able to establish an independent Croatia only by reconciling Croats themselves. Not all the Ustashas in the Independent State of Croatia [NDH] were fascists, not all of them committed crimes, and speaking of the Serbian case, not all the Chetniks were fascists and criminals. It was the historic circumstances that caused the division of Croats into [Tito's] partisans, home guardsmen [regular, nonpartisan NDH forces], or Ustashas, while on the other side causing the division of the Serbian people into partisans and Chetniks. All of them had also some positive ideas, not only crime as their main preoccupation. We in Croatia took the line of reconciliation based on democracy. Generally, we succeeded in it. With a democratic platform we managed to reduce the extreme currents to marginal occurrences. When it was expected that the Croatian Rights Party, and suchlike, who consider themselves to be the progeny of the NDH and the Ustasha movement, would gain 15 to 20 percent of votes, they gained 5 to 6 percent. The Croatian transformation after abandoning Yugoslav socialism is really based on democracy. Not only am I personally against naming a street after Budak, but I also explicitly instructed the people not to continue with this. I said in the Parliament that democratic Croatia could not be built on the symbols of World War II and fascism.

Owen Ends Talks With Izetbegovic; Meets Ganic

LD2404175193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] We have just received a report that talks between Alija Izetbegovic and Lord Owen have ended in Zagreb. Lord Owen told journalists that their discussion concerned the provinces in central Bosnia, which represent a serious problem. However, he expressed the hope that this problem will be resolved. Izetbegovic did not wish to comment.

Lord Owen immediately left for talks with Ejup Ganic, vice president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency.

Foreign Minister Briefs Envoys on Bosnian Conflict

LD2404154993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Croatian Foreign Minister Zdenko Skrabalo summoned the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives accredited in Zagreb today in order to convey to them the stand of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina with regard to the conflicts between Croats and Muslims. Minister Skrabalo also stressed again the views of the Croatian Government on relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has always advocated and respected the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a state of three equal constitutive nations, because only such a Bosnia-Herzegovina will contribute to the prosperity and progress of the Republic of Croatia itself. The Republic of Croatia has so far indicated its support for an independent and sovereign Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in many ways. After being first to recognize the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to appoint its ambassador to the republic, and having opened its border to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina, it is today still caring, with the help of the international community, for 400,000 citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has also always stressed and is continuing to stress that the alliance between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina is the only real starting point and foundation for a solution to the tragic and bloody crisis incited by Serb aggression.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia also stresses that it has always used all its influence with its fellow nationals in the neighboring Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to encourage them to conduct a policy of negotiation, agreement, and cooperation with the Muslims, and to advocate peaceful solutions.

The latest events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in particular the undesirable and tragic clashes between individual formations of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and certain local units of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] have overshadowed the continuing, tragic events in the area of eastern Bosnia and have thereby enabled the Serb aggressor, aided from so-called Yugoslavia, to complete its ethnic cleansing and seizure of territory.

There are elements among representatives of the Muslim and Croat nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina which are, we know, profoundly disappointed and frustrated by the passivity and inertia so far of the international community, and which are beyond the control both of the legal military and civilian authorities of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and of the HVO and the Croatian community of Herceg-Bosna, Dr. Skrabalo said.

Strongly condemning these events, the Government of the Republic of Croatia also guarantees that it will call to account and punish all who are guilty of encouraging and inciting conflicts between Croats and Muslims in the area of central Bosnia. The Government of the Republic of Croatia will do all it can to pacify and normalize the

situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and for the good relations between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina to serve as a framework for a lasting solution for the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Minister Skrabalo stressed.

Minister Skrabalo also acquainted the foreign ambassadors and diplomatic representatives with the stands of the Government of the Republic of Croatia which will be presented at the forthcoming extraordinary meeting of countries of the Islamic Conference Organization.

RSK Leader Protests UNPROFOR Actions on Resolutions

LD2304162393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1409 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—Djordje Bjegovic, prime minister of the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK], today sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, proposing that "all Security Council resolutions contrary to the Vance plan be reexamined."

In this way, "the peace process and a normal end to the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] mandate would be made possible"; otherwise "the consequences would be unforseeable, primarily because UNPROFOR will lose its protective role if it is empowered to implement Resolutions 815 and 820," the letter today made available to TANJUG stresses.

The RSK prime minister stresses that the two resolutions (815 and 820) annul the key article of the Vance plan which specifies that political solution in the dispute between the Croatian and Serb community must not be prejudged, by "treating the RSK as an integral part of Croatia."

Bjegovic says that the Krajina delegation at the talks in New York was given an explanation by Cyrus Vance, saying that "the plan does not envisage prejudging the political solution and this is binding for UNPROFOR, which must observe this rule."

"Mr. Vance recalled that UNPROFOR could not influence the Security Council decisions, but he did not explain what would happen when UNPROFOR had to implement the resolutions contrary to its mandate," Bjegovic says in his letter.

Recalling that Resolution 820 forces the RSK "to apply for import and export permits to the government of the Republic of Croatia," Bjegovic assesses that "if UNPROFOR implements this decision, its mandate will then be carried out contrary to the Vance plan and will be doing a favor to the Republic of Croatia, which will, apart from the military aggression, get a chance to economically exhaust the RSK, which is in an already difficult economic situation."

UN Security Council Delegation Arrives in Zagreb

LD2304213593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation comprising representatives from six UN Security Council member states arrived in Zagreb this afternoon. The representatives from Venezuela, France, Russia, Hungary, New Zealand, and Pakistan will pay a brief visit to the Croatian capital, where they will have talks with General Lars Eric Wahlgren, commander of the UN Protection Force. They will travel to Sarajevo tomorrow morning and later on to Srebrenica. The delegation's leader, Venezuelan Ambassador Diego Arrias, said that the aim of their visit is to obtain as much objective information as possible about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to submit a report to the UN Security Council.

Croatian Army Attack on UN-Protected RSK

LD2404121593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1134 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Knin, April 24 (TANJUG)—The Croatian Army on Saturday morning attacked the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which is a UN-protected area, the general staff of the RSK Army said in a statement.

The Croatian Forces in Miljevacki plateau opened artillery fire at 8:30 am (0630 GMT) on the area of the Krka Monastery, the statement specified.

The Croatian Forces along the demarcation line opened fire in the night of April 23-24, and in the morning continued opening fire on Serb positions from artillery weapons, tanks and multi-rocket launchers.

The Croatian Army has continued fierce attacks along the front line between Kakna, the Biograd hinterland, and Prigrada, at [place name indistinct], the statement said.

The RSK Army units countered all Croatian attacks.

Largest Opposition Party Creates Shadow Cabinet

LD2404235293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] At the seventh session of the Upper Council of the Croatian Social Liberal Alliance, held in Sibenik, this party has decided to set up a shadow government. At the suggestion of the party Chairman Drazen Budisa, Goran Granic, a deputy to the Croatian Assembly and member of the party's lower council, has been elected prime minister-designate by secret vote. The prime minister-designate is tasked with submitting a draft code of practice and his program and line-up of the shadow government at the next session of the party's upper council, which will then decide whether to adopt them.

Message to Islamic Body on Bosnia Clashes

LD2504171693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The Government of the Republic of Croatia welcomes the fact that the Islamic Conference Organization [IOC] has, at its session in Karachi, once again placed the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina on its agenda. This is stated in a message that Defense Minister Zdenko Skrabalo sent to the IOC on behalf of the Croatian Government.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia wanted to take this opportunity—i.e. the IOC session—to reiterate and emphasize its awareness that cooperation and military alliance as well as deep understanding and sincere friendship between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina and further afield are not just a natural consequence of the history which both nations share, but also the only way to the future in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There are elements among representatives of both the Muslim and the Croat nations which—above all, we believe, due to profound disappointment and frustration regarding the passivity and inefficiency of the international community—have slipped out of the control of the legitimate military and civic authorities of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Croatian community of Herceg-Bosna.

The intelligence services of the regime in Belgrade are taking full advantage of such a situation in order to bring about and deepen the divisions between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this way the realization of their greater Serbian goals would be practically guaranteed.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia sincerely hopes that representatives at the Karachi conference will realize what this is all about and that they will be able to see that the latest escalation of the conflict has emerged on the eve of the implementation of resolution 820 and the referendum in Russia, and more important, on the eve of the talks which are still in progress between the highest-ranking representatives of the Croatian authorities and representatives of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bosnian Muslims and Croats, in the presence of Mr. Owen.

The Croatian Government once again draws attention to the fact that it has always supported and respected the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and that it took every opportunity to emphasize that a single and sovereign Bosnia-Herzegovina, a state of three constituent nations on an equal footing, was an important condition of security and stability, as well as of the well-being and prosperity of the Republic of Croatia itself. [passage omitted]

The Croatian Government also guarantees that it will use all its influence to ensure that all those responsible for instigating and provoking the latest clashes with Muslims in central Bosnia are called to account and punished. [passage omitted]

Federal

Owen Leaves FRY, Warns of 'Certain Confrontation'

LD2604084393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0628 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 26 Apr (TANJUG)—David Owen, cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, this morning ended his five-day Balkan mission in search for a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

Immediately before his departure from Belgrade, Owen, in connection with the decision of the Serb Republic Assembly not to accept the full Vance-Owen plan, said that he did not know if UN Security Council Resolution No. 820 would start being implemented at 0600 today or at the same time tomorrow, but that he is certain it will be implemented. The resolution envisages the tightening of the existing, and the introduction of further, sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia precisely because the Bosnian Serbs rejected signing the peace plan for Bosnia.

Lord Owen spoke very favorably of the message sent by the presidents of the FRY, Serbia, and Montenegro—Dobrica Cosic, Slobodan Milosevic, and Momir Bulatovic—to the Serb Republic Assembly. The message appealed to the deputies to accept the Vance- Owen plan. As he said, the Security Council, that is, the United Nations, will certainly keep in mind this approach in their further moves and activities concerning Yugoslavia.

Despite the words of praise, Lord Owen warned that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is expected to take more radical steps in connection with the Bosnian Serbs. He described today's decision of the Serb Republic Assembly in Bijeljina as a tragic one, with incalculable consequences.

Lord Owen left Belgrade for Geneva. Before his departure he said that after Geneva he will go to London and New York. In New York he will meet with Cyrus Vance, the other cochairman of the conference on former Yugoslavia, and Thorvald Stoltenberg, who will take over Vance's duty on 1 May, as well as members of the Security Council.

As he said, it will be decided after the talks what collective action the United Nations will take following the Bosnian Serbs' rejection of the Vance-Owen plan.

David Owen said that after Bijeljina, "a confrontation between Europe and the Bosnian Serbs" is certain. He said that he did not exclude the possibility of a military option under the auspices of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Assembly Adopts Declaration on Latest UN Sanctions

AU2304184893 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The federal parliament chambers met in joint session tonight and unanimously adopted a declaration on the latest Security Council sanctions against our country. There were 11 abstentions. The deputy caucuses in the Federal Assembly reached a consensus for the first time in, as stated, the interests of the FRY and the entire Serbian nation. Socialist Party of Montenegro deputies were the only ones to abstain from voting.

Presidents' Message to Bosnian Serbs Detailed

LD2604082293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0753 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 26 (TANJUG)—President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Dobrica Cosic, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic in the night between Sunday and Monday sent a message to the Parliament of the Bosnian Serb Republic urging its deputies to accept the Vance/Owen plan.

The assembly early this morning rejected the appeal by the three presidents.

"You are adopting tonight a decision which will have fateful significance for the outcome of your struggle for national liberty and human and civil rights. Your acceptance or non-acceptance of the Vance/Owen plan will also have enormous significance for the future of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its republics Serbia and Montenegro," the presidents said in their message.

Stressing that in their talks with Lord Owen during the past few days they had learned very significant details about the realization of the peace plan, the three presidents said: "It is our firm conviction that the remaining open questions of the so-called transitional arrangement and maps could be resolved more successfully by means of the procedure envisaged by the plan than by rejecting it and continuing confrontations and bloodshed. The significance of the remaining open questions can in no way be compared to the enormous loss of human life and material damage that will result from a continuation of the civil war."

They added that under the plan the Serbs in Bosnia would still retain 45 per cent of its territory, and that "certainty exists that the key question of the territorial link between Serb provinces must be resolved, and that the danger has been eliminated of the Serb people being separated and divided."

"In our approach to the Vance/Owen plan we cannot rule out new confrontations and misunderstandings, but we want those confrontations to take place in future in political debates and at the conference table within the

conference on Yugoslavia within the tripartite presidency operating on the basis of a consensus principle, within the commission for borders and within all other organs, and not by weapons or bloodshed and the destruction of cities and villages," they said.

The three presidents added that the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro "exhibited the biggest level of solidarity with you, even bigger than permitted by their actual capacity. They will continue to express that solidarity, regardless of all threats."

In the name of the citizens of Yugoslavia, the presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro said in their letter to the Bosnian Serb Republic Parliament deputies: "At a moment when you have been guaranteed equality and the right of decision by consensus, as a constituent people, and the territories that have been offered to you, you do not have a right to endanger and expose to international sanctions the ten million citizens of Yugoslavia, because of the remaining open questions, which are of incomparably lesser significance than the results that have been achieved. We simply want to tell you that you must retain a sense of proportion in your demands".

"We presume to have just as much right as you to make decisions of importance to the Serbian people—hence, we demand that you take into consideration our categorical stance and accept the plan".

"We presume to understand what is good for our country and for the entire Serbian people, and what is evil. This is a question of war and peace and that is why we choose peace. That peace is not just peace for Serbia and Montenegro but also for all of you," Cosic, Milosevic and Bulatovic said in their letter.

Text of Federal Parliament Declaration on Sanctions

LD2404095193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1916 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—The Chamber of Citizens and Chamber of Republics of the Federal Assembly unanimously adopted at a joint session this evening a declaration on the sanctions. We are transmitting the full text of the declaration:

The decisions on sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) are contrary to the UN Charter and constitute a direct attack on the sovereignty of the FRY and a crude violation of all international legal and political documents relating to human rights and humanitarian norms. Their aim is to realize the interests of foreign powers on the territory of former Yugoslavia. Such steps in the practice of international relations are dangerous precedents which can be applied to other states with regard to their issues of contention.

At the Geneva conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the international community decided that it is an interethnic and civil war being waged in Bosnia-Herzegovina. That conference officially called on the opposing sides in that war to reach agreement on ending all armed conflicts and on establishing peace. The claim that the FRY is a warring party in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina thereby loses all meaning, and likewise there is no reason or basis for the maintaining of sanctions against the FRY.

By deciding on the tightening of existing sanctions and introduction of new ones, the UN Security Council has completely ignored the continuing peace efforts and concrete constructive contributions which the FRY has been making over a long period, and is continuing to make, to halt the hostilities and reach a sensible political compromise which would equally respect the legitimate interests and rights of the three constitutive nations in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Regardless of threats, the FRY cannot be denied the right to show solidarity with the parts of the Serbian nation outside the FRY, which is manifest in the provision of moral, economic, and humanitarian assistance.

The FRY Assembly remains firmly committed to a policy of peace and a political solution to the crisis on the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through peace and not war, and considers it most important to establish peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina immediately and without delay, which requires the complete observance of the cease-fire agreement reached with the mediation of the FRY. It is also essential that the talks on the remaining outstanding issues in the Vance-Owen plan be brought to a conclusion with equal consideration for the vital interests of the Serb nation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

While stressing the irrevocable decision of the FRY in favor of peace and its vital interest in the successful conclusion of the peace process, the FRY Assembly assures all parties in the international community that, in the event of a threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the FRY will act resolutely and with all means at its disposal in its own defense.

Keeping in mind all the pressures to which our country and its peoples are exposed, the Federal Assembly appeals to all political and other public bodies to show full responsibility and to achieve maximum solidarity in the face of the challenges which are facing us.

Kontic Appeals to Foreign Leaders on Sanctions

Letter Urges Policy Reversal

LD2304164193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1439 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic has sent a letter to prime ministers and presidents of 51 countries in connection with

the latest UN Security Council Resolution 820 on tightening and introducing new sanctions against FRY. Copies of the letter were handed over to ambassadors or charge d'affaires of these countries, a statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

In his letter to world statesmen, Kontic presents arguments confirming that the sanctions are unjust and unfounded, and that they are aimed at brutal collective punishment of FRY and the Serbian people as a whole, innocent people and children, the statement says.

The letter says that the international law has not recorded such a form of hermetic closure of one country which has been turned into a concentration camp of its own kind. In this respect the letter lays a particular stress on adverse effects that the current sanctions have on the most threatened social categories of population, including a great number of refugees who have found safe havens on its territory, and on the FRY economy.

Kontic's letter particularly stresses that right from the outbreak of the Yugoslav crisis FRY has been urging the peaceful settlement of all conflicts and particularly of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina to which, the statement says, FRY has made its concrete contribution.

Kontic urges the statesmen from 51 countries to reexamine their present stands if they wish to end the profound unjustice towards the people of FRY, a member-country and cofounder of the United Nations, to prevent numerous new tragic consequences of sanctions and death of many innocent people and further suffering, and to remove obvious dangers of the escalation of armed conflicts in the region.

Kontic also appeals to world statesmen to use their authority to free the Yugoslav people from the sanctions which represent the most monstrous unjustice ever dealt on any state or people by the United Nations, the statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

Measures To Counter Sanctions

LD2304153993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1010 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 23 Apr (TANJUG)—Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic stated today that there are signs of a compromise regarding the Vance-Owen plan, and he announced direct control of available resources in line with strictly defined priorities if the latest UN Security Council resolution is enforced.

Kontic was speaking at a meeting with some 60 industrialists at the Palace of the Federation in Belgrade. The meeting was organized to brief industrialists about preparations for a possible "hermetic"—as Kontic put it—blockade of the FRY.

In such a situation we would have to rely completely on our own resources, and according to the current analysis the consumption of electricity, agricultural products, and some other products would have to be controlled through operative headquarters.

Kontic reviewed in detail seven budgets for specific purposes and sources of problems. First, the military budget is adequate for the danger and has been worked out according to a well-developed methodology.

In the field of energy, where we would have to rely completely on domestic resources, and we would face a problem with liquid fuels and natural gas because consumption would have to be halved in comparison to the adopted energy balance, Kontic said.

According to the list of available agricultural and food products, the situation is encouraging, the federal prime minister said. We have an excess of wheat and corn, and the quantities of oil, sugar, meat, milk, eggs, and other basic products generally could meet needs, Kontic said.

He noted that the production of these goods would have to be stimulated and that managing bodies would have to be set up. We are even counting on exporting these products, regardless of the sanctions, the federal prime minister said, specifying that the money earned would be used to buy medicines and toiletries.

This group of products presents the greatest problem because, as Kontic recalled, Yugoslavia has only 10-15 percent of the raw materials necessary for their production. Sanctions most likely would force us to buy ready-made medicines, Kontic added.

After measures were taken to increase them, foreign exchange reserves would be used solely to cover material balances [as received], and in the field of social security increased expenses are expected, the federal prime minister assessed.

This would require a new policy regulating prices and salaries, as well as a new fiscal and budget policy, he added. Employment would have to be directed toward the sectors that would fill in the balance sheets [as received], but it is certain that production in some areas would have to stop, Kontic said.

The federal prime minister stated that the government has taken measures to protect property abroad that is in danger of being confiscated and frozen, and called on industrialists to do their best in this regard.

Speaking about this crucial historical moment, Kontic stressed that he still hoped that the talks, which were showing some signs of progress, would come to a favorable conclusion.

"There are some signs of compromise," Kontic said. Bosnian Serbs understand our situation and are willing to compromise, according to him. The federal prime minister at the same time expects that the international community will show greater understanding for at least a minimum of the Serb national interest.

Drawing a parallel between the new resolution and Resolution 802, Kontic stressed that political consequences are used as future political solutions. For example, following the declaration of Croatian sovereignty over the territories under UN control, the former Bosnia-Herzegovina is now indirectly being declared a unitary state.

The hermetic closure of FRY borders, as introduced by the new resolution, is imposed with the goal of causing the collapse of the economy, social tension, and unrest, with clear political objectives, the federal prime minister said. He also spoke in detail about the consequences of the existing sanctions, saying that the sanctions had stopped the process of transforming the economy and democratizing society. The sanctions destroy moral values and generate smuggling and crime. The standard of living has been put back 30 or 40 years, and it was halved during last year alone, Kontic said.

The federal premier ended his speech saying that he still had hope that the international negotiators would understand that there was a borderline that no Serb cross and that a way to peace would be found. [passage omitted]

The need to develop methods to save FRY assets abroad also was stressed. Milorad Unkovic, federal minister for economic relations with foreign countries, said he was not a pessimist, noting that if the right climate is created, cooperation will be forged, foreign capital will come, and barter deals will be made. He stressed that imports, especially of fuels, should be subsidized.

If Yugoslav property is confiscated, as envisaged by Resolution 820, then foreign property in the FRY should be listed and threats to introduce reciprocal measures should be made. [passage omitted]

Panic Sees 'Absolutely No Reason' for Intervention

AU2604125193 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 26 Apr 93 p 167

[Unattributed interview with General Zivota Panic, "chief of staff of the Armed Forces of rump-Yugoslavia"; place and date not given]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] General, this is a question of war or peace; what does Serbia stand for?

[Panic] We are a sovereign country, there is absolutely no reason for an intervention against us.

[DER SPIEGEL] Have the Serbs not virtually provoked an international intervention by their brutal action against the Muslims in the Bosnian city of Srebrenica?

[Panic] Srebrenica has only been turned into a media spectacle to implement the UN resolution, just like Sarajevo was in the past. We know that the United Nations want to attack targets in Bosnia, such as the bridges across the Drina River ...

[DER SPIEGEL] ... that connect Bosnia with Serbia.

[Panic] Western military experts believe that they could intimidate us with sudden air strikes. However, we are ready to fight to the bitter end. They can send in 200,000 soldiers—we are 10 million Serbs.

[DER SPIEGEL] You are constantly stating that the West wants to destroy the Serbs.

[Panic] The Serbs are the largest nation in the Balkans. There are many people who do not like that and want to take away our lebensraum in Bosnia.

[DER SPIEGEL] At the moment it is the Serbs who are driving away the Muslims from Bosnia through their ethnic cleansing activities.

[Panic] It was the other side that started ethnic cleansing. We have what is ours—or maybe 10 percent more. According to the Vance-Owen plan, all of Bosnia's raw materials would go to the Croats and Muslims while the Serbs would only get weeds and woods.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is the Vance-Owen plan, therefore, worthless?

[Panic] This plan should be accepted, although with certain restrictions. The contended provinces should become a UN protectorate until a political solution is found.

[DER SPIEGEL] The United Nations has accused the Yugoslav Army of continuously supplying the Bosnian Serbs with arms.

[Panic] I have to deny that categorically. Not a single soldier of the Yugoslav Army is in Bosnia. All we do is provide is humanitarian aid.

[DER SPIEGEL] What about the Chetniks, who are driven to the front in busses?

[Panic] That is a different matter, that is their decision. However, in Bosnia-Herzegovina there are still enough companies that produce military equipment—on all three sides. The Bosnian Serbs are excellent fighters and well equipped.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would the Yugoslav Army intervene if an international intervention were staged in Bosnia?

[Panic] As long as Yugoslavia's borders are not threatened we have no reason to interfere into any fighting. The West is obviously trying to regain the territory of the former Habsburg Empire in Bosnia. Austria and Germany are taking a special interest in it—through their puppets Tudjman and Izetbegovic.

[DER SPIEGEL] While Serbia is counting on the Russian brother—although even Foreign Minister Kozyrev has now called for firm steps against Belgrade.

[Panic] It remains to be seen. The Serbian people love their independence and do not need any guardian. Let

the Russians pursue the policy they deem right. We do not expect any help from them; we will be able to help ourselves.

[DER SPIEGEL] Hence, Serbia is standing against the rest of the world?

[Panic] Why not, is there any alternative? Militarily, we may not have a chance, but moral victory is certain. The West may be able to occupy our country, but every day some people will die.

[DER SPIEGEL] This sounds of nostalgic memories of the partisans.

[Panic] We will go to the end. Our patriotism makes us stand shoulder to shoulder. Regarding the sanctions: Serbs can live on a piece of bread and roasted lamb—whatever the situation requires.

[DER SPIEGEL] Fighting is now even getting worse between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia. Might this ultimately lead to an alliance between Serbs and Croats against the Muslims?

[Panic] This would be the best solution?

[DER SPIEGEL] Why?

[Panic] Because it would solve the question of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[DER SPIEGEL] At the expense of the Muslims, whose areas of settlement would then be divided between Serbs and Croats.

[Panic] That is their problem, let them do what they think is best. The Croats are taking advantage of the Muslims as they did in World War II. In the end, they will throw out the Muslims from their provinces. There can be no doubt about it.

[DER SPIEGEL] Recently you said that even Europe does not like the Muslims.

[Panic] Yes, and I say it again. From the Battle of Kosovo, in the Middle Ages, to this date, the Serbs have been the protective shield against Islam. Europe should be grateful for it.

[DER SPIEGEL] If the conflict in the Balkans were to spread would the Yugoslav Army then try to reconquer Slovenia and Croatia?

[Panic] Certainly not. This Yugoslavia brought greatest havoc to the Serbs. We do not need to feed through any Slovenes, Croats, or Muslims—only the Albanians in Kosovo.

Croatia Amassing Troops on Serb Krajina Border

LD2404015493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2247 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] New York, April 23 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav mission to the United Nations has informed the Security Council that Croatia is amassing troops along the border with the U.N.-protected Republic of Serb Krajina (R.S.K.) preparatory to a new offensive.

The information came in a letter addressed to the security council and was circulated on Friday as an official document. The letter said that the amassing of troops had been accompanied by Croatia's increasingly frequent unfounded allegations against Belgrade and the Serbs.

On January 22, Croatia launched an aggression on the U.N.- protected R.S.K., which has been proclaimed in the predominantly Serb-populated territories within the communist-era administrative borders of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia in response to Croatia's violent secession from Yugoslavia.

The letter also said that Croatia was continuing to flout the Security Council's resolution 802 ordering it to withdraw to behind the U.N. truce line, and that Croatia had concentrated between 45,000 and 50,000 troops along the border with sector Kmut of the R.S.K.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman declares he will "take by force" what he describes as "the lost territories," the letter said.

The Yugoslav mission appealed to the security council to take cognizance of the military preparations, which are well known to the U.N. protection force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia, and not be taken in by Croatia's latest anti-Belgrade propaganda offensive launched at U.N. headquarters. The international community should make sure that its attitudes and decisions should not be such as to encourage Croatia in its aggressive plans, the letter said.

Serbia

Serbs Protest Tudjman at Holocaust Museum Opening

LD2404135593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1325 GMT 24 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 24 (TANJUG)—The public of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia was embittered by the presence of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, who denies that six million Jews and nearly one million Serbs were killed in World War II, at the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

Serbian Information Minister Milivoje Pavlovic on Friday sent the Holocaust Museum Manager Michael Berenbaum a letter of protest and a book testifying to Tudjman's anti-semitic stands.

Pavlovic in his letter said: "the freedom-loving public deserves an answer from you: in the name of what priniciples was Franjo Tudjman invited to the opening

of your museum, when he had so convincingly carried out his idea of destroying the memorial museum in Jasenovac and other places commemorating genocide victims."

Nearly 700,000 Serbs, Jews and Romanies were killed by Ustashi (Croatian fascists) in Jasenovac, the largest death camp in the Balkans set up by the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), a puppet-state of Hitler's Germany in World War II.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the NDH, founded in the spring of 1941, Tudjman described this state as the expression of historical aspirations of the Croat people and said that in the Ustashi camp of Jasenovac there was a total of about 30,000 victims.

The Jasenovac memorial museum was destroyed by the Croatian Army in 1991, when the Croats and the local Serbs clashed because of Croatia's secession from the former Yugoslav Federation. Jasenovac is now in the U.N.- protected area, sector west.

Minister Pavlovic sent Berenbaum ten copies of Dr. Milan Bulajic's book called "Tudjman's Jasenovac Myth", in which the author analysed Tudjman's anti-semitic stands.

"We believe that an impartial reader will find in this book the answers to many open questions, including the one on the continuity of the genocidal theory and practice in the region," Pavlovic said in his letter.

The society of the Serbian-Jewish Friendship sent copies of the book in English to hundreds of Jewish organizations and institutions throughout the world.

The organization of Americans of Serb descent, Serbnet, said in its protest submitted to TANJUG on Friday that Tudjman's presence at the Holocaust Museum opening was an irony and insult to the Jewish and Serbian peoples.

Serbnet said Tudjman had revised history by saying that historical documents, proving that Ustashi (Croatian fascists) had in World War II killed nearly one million Serbs and close to 70,000 Jews, were exaggerated.

Many monuments to victims of World War II have been destroyed over the past two years of Tudjman's reign in Croatia, Serbnet said and expressed indignation that such a person was present at the festivities which began on Monday to commemorate the Jewish uprising in the Warsaw ghetto. The festivities ended with the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington on Thursday.

Despite ongoing sharp reactions of individuals and organizations throughout the world, who have been noting the continuity of Tudjman's anti-semitic stands clearly expounded in his quasi- historical book "The Wastelands of Historical Reality", the strictly-controlled Croatian media describe Tudjman's visit to Washington as "triumphant".

Neither the Croatian TV, radio nor any Croatian herald mentioned the indignation caused by Tudjman's presence at the opening of the Holocaust Museum, agencies reported on Friday.

Instead, the heralds, under the ever watchful eye of Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), front-lined photographs of Tudjman and U.S. President Clinton shaking hands at the White House reception.

The Croatian heralds' servile texts about Tudjman's visit to Washington contain even the precise time when he set foot in the White House and "important" details, such as, "the hotel at which the president stayed is in the immediate vicinity of the White House". They carried Tudjman's statement that his meeting with Clinton was more than just "mere courtesy".

Names of Firms Importing Petroleum to Serbia

93BA0877D Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 18 Mar 93 p 6

[Article by J.P.: "'Posejdon'—God of Petroleum"]

[Text] Belgrade—Because the "affair of the ministers" in Serbia is spiked to a fair extent with petroleum, it has become particularly relevant in recent days to answer the question: "Who are all the importers of petroleum and petroleum products into Serbia?"

It is self-evident that since back in September 1991, when the Adriatic Oil Pipeline was closed, this job was taken over by Jugopetrol of Belgrade, Naftagas Promet of Novi Sad (the two leading firms of the Petroleum Industry of Serbia [NIS]), and Beopetrol. In the meanwhile, others have become involved in this business more and more. Genex, for example, imported about 30,000 metric tons of petroleum products during last year, and Jugodrvo, a firm directly connected to the chorus of ministers, imported about 22,000 tons of diesel fuel and more than 4,000 tons of motor gasoline.

Importers of petroleum products in Serbia also include the relatively anonymous names of the firms EKSP of Pirot, Trejders A of Belgrade, Interpromet of Rozaje.... Sunce of Novi Sad, for example, bought 1,000 tons of motor gasoline abroad, and Nis Ekspres imported 1,500 tons of gasoline and all of 14,500 tons of diesel fuel. Udarnik of Pec, which bought more than 13,000 tons of diesel fuel on the open world market, has also been involved in the oil business.

It is of interest that the private operators also helped the Serbian crisis control headquarters for fulfilling the annual energy budget by importing heavy fuel oil. The Belgrade firms Posejdon and Marketing provided in all more than 50,000 tons of that fuel.

It is evident that this kind of expansion of the list of importers was necessary if we compare the amounts Serbia needed for its annual consumption (5.3 million tons of crude petroleum) and the domestic production of

products from crude petroleum extracted in Vojvodina fields and in Stig. In 1992, which was a record, the petroleum refinery in Pancevo had an output of more than 1.1 million tons of domestic "black gold." Imports of NIS provided another two million tons of crude petroleum and nearly a million tons of various products. In spite of that, however, a real drought for petroleum products prevailed on the Serbian market even before the oil embargo was put in place.

Because of the shortage of gasoline and other fuels, the public has awarded a halo to importers of petroleum products as true patriots, and oil profiteers have begun to hide successfully behind this perception. After all, the price of products as the noose is tightened around the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been rising more and more for the final consumer, and many "hands," including the ministerial names which are already known, have cleverly been calculated into the chain of those who deserve credit for arrival of the fuel.

Kosovo

Rugova Demands Kosovo Issue on UN Agenda

AU2404175293 Tirana ATA in English 0850 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 24 (ATA)—At his press conference on April 23, the President of the Republic of Kosovo Dr. Ibrahim Rugova spoke of the Serb repression in Kosovo against the Albanians and their individual and collective properties. The Serbs are dismissing from work and discriminating even those few Albanians who are still working, he said.

President Rugova said: "We hail the visit of the holy father, Pope John Paul II to Albania. Pope's arrival to Albania is welcomed by many Albanians in all the Albanian territories. Unfortunately," he said, "the Albanians of Kosovo will run the risk of taking the road to Albania, as the Serb regime has closed all the borders of Kosovo and the Albanians' movement is hindered in all forms. Pope's visit to Albania is of great importance for Albania and all the Albanians, Kosovo, and the whole Balkan region," President Rugova said. "This visit is a contribution to peace."

Further on, President Rugova also spoke of the fruitful diplomatic activity conducted over the last week by state subjects of Kosovo. He valued as very successful the visits of the U.S. congressmen, officials of the Foreign Ministry of Sweden, and of the Russian parliamentary delegations.

President Rugova said: "We support the latest UN resolution against Serbia and Montenegro, so that the tragic war in Bosnia be stopped immediately. We demand that Kosovo be not included in the sanctions against the self-styled Yugoslavia," Rugova said.

In this press conference, President Rugova reiterated his demand that the question of Kosovo be on the agenda of the UN Security Council as soon as possible in order to halt the repression and violence by the Serbian regime, which is threatening the whole region with an armed conflict.

Kosovo Official Urges UN To Reconsider Sanctions

LD2304133993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1008 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Pristina, 23 (TANJUG)—Ibrahim Rugova, chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, stated today that he supports the latest Security Council resolution on the tightening of sanctions against Yugoslavia but at the same time called for Kosovo to be exempt from the blockade and for humanitarian and other aid to be sent here.

Speaking at a news conference, Rugova called on the Security Council to adopt, as he said, a preventive resolution on Kosovo, based on "a peace plan" of Kosovo Albanians. Among other things the plan envisages demilitarization of Kosovo, i.e. withdrawal of the Serbian Army and police, the creation of conditions for elections and, in the final analysis, and enabling Albanians to realise their separatist goal—the "Republic of Kosovo."

Rugova hailed the forthcoming visit by Pope John Paul II to Albania and said that Kosovo Albanians will also go there in masses at their own risk. He said that the visit is "important for Albania, Kosovo, the entire region and for all Albanians," and added that it represents recognition of Albanians as a peace-loving factor.

Repeating his story about the continuation of alleged Serbian repression over innocent Albanians, the chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo added that military authorities in Kosovo allegedly intend to forcefully mobilize Albanians, and thus cause widespread unrest.